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MODI PENS OPEN LETTER

'India is a symbol of stability for the world'

NEWS » PAGE 12

NEW COALITION DEAL

China hawk Takaichi is Japan's first woman PM

WORLD » PAGE 16

VANCE IN ISRAEL

'Gaza truce going on better than expected'

WORLD » PAGE 16

CALL FOR ACTION

'We need a law to protect domestic workers'

Absence of legislation has many ill effects

OPINION » PAGE 11

CLINICAL SHOW

South Africa crushes Pakistan, goes top

SPORT » PAGE 17

NEARBY

State has lost ₹15,000 crore owing to GST: CM

BENGALURU
After "extorting money" from the people under the old GST system, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is now patting himself, calling GST reduction a "Deepavali gift," Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has said.

» PAGE 8

THE HINDU
Greets its readers on the occasion of **Balipadyami.**
There will be no issue of THE HINDU dated October 23, 2025 as Balipadyami is a holiday.
Readers can access the online edition at **www.thehindu.com**

OPPORTUNITIES » PAGE 5

New H-1B visa fee will not apply for change of status: U.S. govt.

Fee will not apply to existing visa holders granted an amendment, change of status, or extension of stay, says the USCIS guidelines; the cut-off date is set at September 21, and current H-1B visa holders can travel freely to and from the U.S.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

In a further relaxation of its rules relating to the new $100,000 fee on H-1B visas, the United States government said on Monday that the fee will not apply to applications for a change of status or an extension of stay in the U.S.

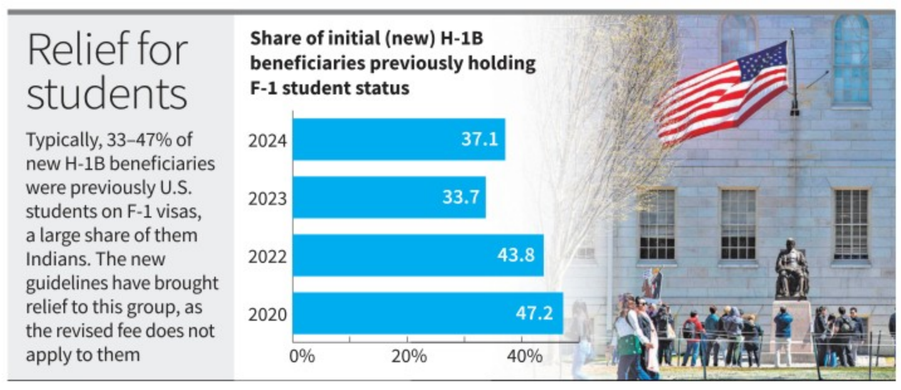
On September 19, U.S. President Donald Trump had signed a proclamation imposing a $100,000 fee on H-1B visas. Hours later, his government clarified that this would be a one-time fee and would only apply to new applications.

Guidelines issued by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services Department on Monday reiterated this, saying that the proclamation "does not apply to any previously issued and currently valid H-1B visas, or any petitions submitted prior to 12:01 a.m. eastern daylight time on September 21, 2025".

"The Proclamation also does not apply to a petition filed at or after 12:01 a.m. eastern daylight time on September 21, 2025, that is requesting an amendment, change of status, or extension of stay for an alien inside the United States where the alien is granted such amendment, change, or extension," the guidelines added.

Notably, they also said that the proclamation does not prevent any holder of a current H-1B visa from travelling to and from the U.S.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce had filed a lawsuit last week challenging the $100,000 fee, saying it overrides existing provisions in current laws that apply to the H-1B programme, including provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act.


Relief for students
Typically, 33–47% of new H-1B beneficiaries were previously U.S. students on F-1 visas, a large share of them Indians. The new guidelines have brought relief to this group, as the revised fee does not apply to them
Share of initial (new) H-1B beneficiaries previously holding F-1 student status
2024
37.1
2023
33.7
2022
43.8
2020
47.2
0%
20%
40%

Indian interests

The H-1B visa, and any related fees, are of particular interest to Indians since they are the largest beneficiaries of this visa programme.

While the U.S. government does not share data on the number of H-1B visa holders currently located in the U.S., other sources – such as FWD.us, an immigration and criminal justice reform advocacy body co-founded by Meta chief executive officer Mark Zuckerberg – say that there were 7.3 lakh H-1B visa-holders in the U.S. as of January of this year. Of these, about 70% were Indian citizens.

Further, as per data from the USCIS, Tata Consultancy Services had 5,505 H-1B visas approved in 2025 as of the end of June, the second-highest number of H-1B visas granted to any company that year, after Amazon (10,044).

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivaumar launching the white topping and road development works in Bengaluru on Tuesday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

'White topping DPR being prepared for 500-km city roads'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengalureans will have to brace themselves for more digging and blocking of roads, as Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Monday announced that a Detailed Project Report (DPR) is being prepared for white topping 500 km of roads in Bengaluru at a cost of ₹4,000 crore.

Speaking after inaugurating the white topping and comprehensive road development work in the Gandhinagar Assembly Constituency, he said the city has 1,650 km of major roads, with white topping currently being done on 104 km of new roads.

"White topping roads last for about 25 to 30 years and the work has been undertaken on 148 km. A total of ₹1,800 crore is being spent on the development of 83 roads. Black topping work is under way on 182 roads covering 350 km, costing ₹695 crore. The Chief Ministerallocated a new grant of ₹1,100 crore, from which we have undertaken the asphalting of 550 km of roads," he said.

On the Bangalore Business Corridor (BBC), Mr. Shivakumar said, "In the last Cabinet meeting, it was decided to build an 117-km long corridor. According to the BDA Act, there is no provision for double compensation. However, our government has decided to give bumper compensation to farmers – three times the standard compensation, Transferable Development Rights (TDR) or Floor Area Ratio (FAR). No previous government had shown such courage."

Mr. Shivakumar said he had requested ₹1.5 lakh crore for city development when Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Metro Yellow Line, highlighting that Bengaluru pays the second-highest taxes after Mumbai. "But I have not received a reply from him so far," he said.

The Deputy Chief minister also mentioned that the government has decided to build 113 km of elevated corridors.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 4

Net FDI fell 159% in August: RBI data

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

Net Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into India fell 159% in August, with more money leaving the country than entering it, according to official data. This is the second time this financial year that outflows have exceeded inflows.

However, the picture is reversed when looked at over a longer time period, with net FDI between April and August 2025 more than 121% higher than in the same five-month period of the previous year.

The Hindu's analysis of data released by the Reserve Bank of India shows that the repatriation and disinvestment by foreign firms in India and the investments done abroad by Indian companies – which add up to the total money leaving the country – were higher than the gross amount that was invested into India in August 2025.

Gross investments into India stood at $6,049 million in August 2025, 30.6% lower than their level in August last year and 45.5% lower than in July this year.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

Core sector growth slows to three-month low

NEW DELHI
Growth in activity in the eight core sectors slowed to a three-month low of 3% in September on contraction in the coal, crude oil, natural gas and refinery products, as well as a relatively sharp slowdown in fertilizers. » PAGE 15

Lit up

Festive mood: Fireworks light up Chennai skies on Monday night, leaving the city shrouded in a thick blanket of smoke even the day after Deepavali on Tuesday. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

Deepavali fireworks send Delhi air quality inching to a five-year low

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

Following Deepavali, pollution in Delhi inched close to a five-year low with average concentrations of particulate matter (PM) 2.5 across several locations crossing 400 microgram per cubic metre (μg/m³) – levels not seen since 2021.

On Deepavali day, nine cities out of the 293 monitored by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) reported an air quality index (AQI) value of above 300, classed as 'very poor' air quality. On the day after Deepavali, Tuesday (for most of the country), this rose to 16 cities, according to data available on the organisation's website.

Nearly all of these cities fell in North India and in the Indo-Gangetic plains. Nationally, Dharuhera in Haryana reported the worst AQI reading of 462 on Tuesday.

Violation suspected

An analysis of PM 2.5 trends, which was recorded by the CPCB's automatic air quality sensors, by independent weather-and-climate agency, Climate Trends, showed a sharp spike in particulate matter concentration from 4 p.m. on Deepavali day (October 20) in Delhi.

From values of around 150 at 4 p.m., it spiked to nearly 650 by 11 p.m. This coincides with the period during which bursting firecrackers was legally permissible (8 p.m. to 10 p.m.) on Deepavali day, per the reprieve by the Supreme Court.

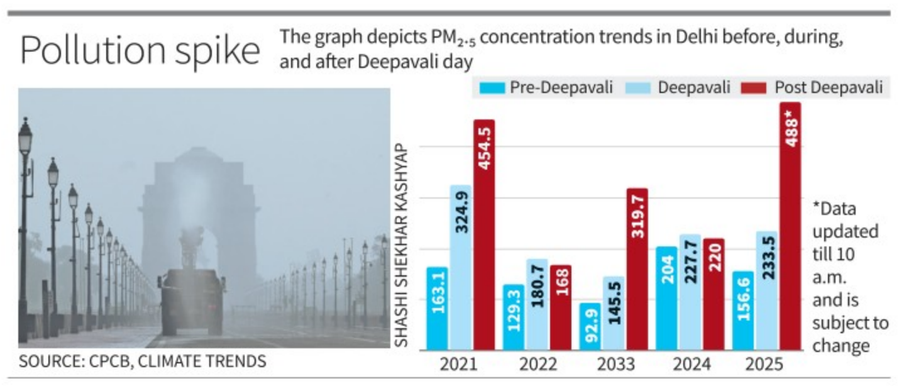
The SC, in its order, had allowed the use of only CSIR-validated 'green crackers', which reportedly emit a minimum 30% less smoke than their traditional counterparts. However, the sheer volume of fireworks during the period, anecdotal reports of the unavailability of these firecrackers, and the air quality index of the day following Deepavali (Tuesday), suggest that these norms were violated.

A key parameter that determines air quality levels is wind speeds on the festival night, as well as temperatures.

When night temperatures are low, smoke and chemical pollutants hover like haze and will not rise to higher reaches of the atmosphere and get flushed out. Temperatures on Deepavali night this year ranged from 23-25 degree Celsius, the warmest in five years but low wind speeds and the quantity of smoke retarded its egress out of the Delhi and the Gangetic plain airshed.

"When examined together, PM 2.5 and temperature data reveal a consistent pattern: high emissions from fireworks and low night-time temperatures jointly contribute to elevated PM 2.5 concentrations. The sharp post-Deepavali spikes indicate both sustained emissions and poor atmospheric dispersion," the Climate Trends report notes.

"The Diwali of 2025 was one of the most polluted in recent years. The spike between the nights of the 19th and 20th directly corresponds to the widespread use of firecrackers across Delhi-NCR. Moreover, visuals and ground data confirm that burning so-called 'green' crackers made no measurable difference compared to regular ones. It's now evident that allowing firecrackers during this time of year is simply not sustainable for the NCR region's already critical air quality," Palak Balyan, Research Lead, Climate Trends, said in a statement.



CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

Indian mission in Kabul gets embassy tag

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Days after the visit by Taliban administration's acting Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi, India has upgraded its Technical Mission in Afghan capital Kabul to an embassy. A Ministry of External Affairs statement said,"This decision underscores India's resolve to deepen its bilateral engagement with the Afghan side in all spheres of mutual interest."

FULL REPORT ON
» PAGE 12

GETTY IMAGES

Vast talent pool has contributed to India's great run in ODIs in recent times

A vibrant domestic system independent of the scouting process followed by IPL franchises has given resources that are capable of exploiting whatever conditions might be on offer, depending on where matches or tournaments are played

R. Kaushik

The beauty about statistics is that the scope for interpretation is immense. India have lost only one bilateral overseas One-Day International series in the last two and a quarter years, which sounds extremely impressive until the realisation strikes that they have only been involved in three such showdowns. Identical 2-1 victories in the West Indies (July 2023) and South Africa (December 2023) were followed by a 0-2 loss in Sri Lanka in August last year.

Spread the net a little wider and extend the scope beyond bilateral faceoffs, and a clearer picture emerges of a team that has dominated the 50-over landscape away from home. India surged to the Asia Cup crown in Sri Lanka in September 2023, losing just one of their six games (to Bangladesh in the Super Fours) and to the Champions Trophy title in Dubai in March this year, when they swept to five consecutive victories, including twice against finalists New Zealand. All this, either side of a fabulous run at the home World Cup in October-November 2023, when they won 10 matches on the bounce, comprehensively, before being heartbreakingly halted by the Australian juggernaut in the final in Ahmedabad.

Losing the charm

Increasingly, 50-over internationals are beginning to lose their charm outside of continental or global events. The World Cup, which comes around once in four years, is still a huge tournament that carries tremendous appeal, but the games that lead up to the quadrennial extravaganza don't excite and enthral like they once used to.

There isn't any one single reason for this development; the overwhelming pull of the 20-over game is the biggest contributing factor, but ODIs themselves have become too predictable and too batter-friendly, with pitches worldwide bearing a remarkable similarity that often reduce the bowling fraternity to serfs who are around only to do the batters' bidding.

The introduction of one new ball at each end didn't help. In the past, when a single ball was used for the duration of the innings (or at least until it lost colour), there was scope for spinners to make an impact, for reverse swing to rear its head from time to time.

A 25-over-old ball Kookaburra (the preferred white orb) seldom facilitates turn or reverse. In a bid to balance the scales somewhat, the decision-makers have decreed that while each innings will begin with two new balls, one of those balls alone will be used from the 35th over onwards. It's a half-and-half compromise whose effect, if any, will take time to gauge.

A fresh, if temporary, lease of life has been breathed into ODI cricket with India doing battle against Australia in a three-match series that they trail 0-1. Defeat at the Optus Stadium in Perth on Sunday was deflating, undoubtedly, but some of the gloss was taken off Australia's seven-wicket victory owing to the numerous rain interruptions in the first half of the game owing to which India, put in, could find no momentum worth the name at any stage of their innings.

The fresh lease, of course, is courtesy the presence of two of the greatest white-ball batters of all time, two immediate former captains who now play internationally only in this format. Neither Rohit Sharma nor Virat Kohli had a match to remember in the Western Australian capital; Rohit played one glorious off-drive before he was nicked off by Josh Hazlewood while Kohli allowed anxiety and frustration to get the better of him when he was kept scoreless off his first seven deliveries. Attempting to drive on the up at the Optus, especially early in one's innings and against a new ball, is fraught with danger, as Kohli found out the hard way. Before Sunday, Kohli's last foray at the Optus had produced an excellent second-innings hundred last November. Now, it's almost certain that his final innings at the same venue will read an eight-ball zero.

Not too much should be, or has been, read into these twin failures. Both right-handers are coming in cold, so to say. Rohit's last competitive fixture was towards the end of May, Kohli's a few days later, both in IPL 2025. They haven't allowed the grass to grow under their feet in the intervening period. Rohit's physical transformation is there for all to see, while away from prying eyes, they have undoubtedly spent long hours in the nets.

But as they themselves, and anyone else who has played cricket at even the most basic level, will assert, no amount of batting at training can replicate the intensity and the pulls and pressures of match-play.

The Optus might not be the iconic WACA ground, but it did have a lot of pace and a bit of lateral movement to go with early swing. All of these contrived to make the much-anticipated return to international action of the masterly duo a big disappointment, but these are early days still and the awesome twosome has two further outings to make a statement.

India's impressive run in ODIs over the last few years, at home and overseas, hasn't stemmed only because of the successes Rohit and Kohli have had. Their vast talent pool has afforded the selectors the luxury of numerous options for each slot. The competition for berths is so much that Yashasvi Jaiswal has played a solitary ODI and just 23 T20Is – he has featured in more Tests (26) than his white-ball internationals combined – since his debut in July 2023. Jaiswal averages 52.62 in List A (non-international 50-over) action at a strike-rate of 85.97, while in 118 T20s, most of them in the IPL, his average of 33.05 is complemented by an impressive strike-rate of 151.67.

Jaiswal, like the exceptional Tilak Varma, will become permanent fixtures in the ODI side not long from now, one suspects, when preparations for the next 50-over World Cup in southern Africa begin in earnest. Both southpaws are terrific ball-strikers; Jaiswal is only 23 and Tilak (22) even younger but have already been part of 197 and 190 senior representative games across formats.

That is just a staggering number; it points to the quantum of cricket India's young guns play, which prepares them very quickly for the bigger challenges as and when they graduate to the next level. There might be a little bit of fortune involved, but India's talent spotters and nurturers can pat themselves on their backs for ensuring that there are ready-made substitutes (if not necessarily replacements) as and when Rohit and Kohli are no longer a part of the 50-over setup.

The vibrant domestic system – which is independent of the scouting process that all IPL franchises assiduously follow – has thrown up resources that are capable of exploiting whatever conditions might be on offer, depending on where matches/tournaments are played.

Spin quartet

In Dubai at the Champions Trophy, India were emboldened enough by the surfaces to field four specialist spinners in their playing XI for the first time in their 50-over history. It helped that two of that quartet, Ravindra Jadeja and Axar Patel, are genuine all-rounders and that the other two, Kuldeep Yadav and Varun Chakaravarthy, are proven match-winners.

Kuldeep is clearly the No. 1 attacking spinner while Chakravarthy might not play too many ODIs going forward because he was chosen for a specific reason, but India are struggling to get Kuldeep into their various squads on a consistent basis because of a marked preference for batting depth.

Since Gautam Gambhir took over as head coach in July last year, India have packed their sides, including in the Test match arena, with quasi- to full-fledged all-rounders. Such is their obsession with having as many batting options as possible that in England, when conditions cried out (unusually) for Kuldeep to be employed, they chose to ignore his credentials and packed their XI with multi-skilled players who weren't all necessarily in the same league – Jadeja, Washington Sundar, Nitish Kumar, Shardul Thakur.

Like Hardik Pandya, Nitish is a rarity in Indian cricket which, for all its reservoir of choices, hasn't thrown up seam-bowling all-rounders with any consistency. India have long given up the hunt for the next Kapil Dev because, quite simply, they can be no next Kapil Dev. Hardik loomed as a promising long-term Test prospect until a protesting body forced him to walk away from the red-ball format. Nitish is now being groomed for that role because of the obvious balance his presence in playing XIs overseas will facilitate. If Nitish and the currently injured Hardik are both fit and available and firing, it will ease the pressure on Gambhir and ODI captain Shubman Gill to stock up the side with additional batting resources.

The champion sides that have dominated the cricketing spectrum for long periods have all been blessed with multi-skilled cricketers. India themselves have boasted numerous spin-bowling all-rounders, among them the now-retired R. Ashwin too, but they haven't quite managed to unearth adequate seaming all-rounders.

Selection committee chairman Ajit Agarkar held out promise towards the late 1990s and the early 2000s, and even smashed a glorious century at Lord's in the first Test of a four-match series in 2002, but his batting didn't quite take off and he played most of his cricket as a fast bowler with the potential to make a few runs. Agarkar knows as well as anyone else that if Nitish continues to grow as a batter (who, let's not forget, made an outstanding hundred in the Melbourne Boxing Day Test in December) and can be trusted to bowl 12-15 overs a day in Tests and maybe six or seven overs in an ODI, Indian headaches will subside to a large extent.

One down with two to play is what stares India in the face ahead of Thursday's battle at the Adelaide Oval. Victory will leave the series fascinatingly poised heading into Saturday's final clash in Sydney, while a second successive loss will prolong Gambhir's wait for a maiden bilateral ODI series triumph overseas by at least another six months, if not more. What's that we said about statistics at the top of the piece?

THE GIST

- A fresh lease of life has been breathed into the One Dayers, which has been losing its charm, with India doing battle against Australia in a three-match series
- Though Rohit and Kohli disappointed in the first match, these are early days and the white-ball legends have two further outings to make a statement
- Nitish Reddy is being groomed as a seam-bowling all-rounder because of the balance his presence in playing XIs overseas will facilitate

Record sale of Nandini products this festive season

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF) has recorded a business of ₹46 crore by selling 1,100 tonnes of sweets during this festive season, a growth of 38%, according to Animal Husbandry and Sericulture Minister K. Venkatesh.

Addressing a press meet here on Tuesday, he said in 2024, KMF achieved the sale of 725 tonnes of Nandini sweets, amounting to a business turnover of ₹33.48 crore during the festive period.

With the concerted efforts of KMF and its member unions, this year's festive sales have surpassed all previous records, reaching an impressive 1100 tonnes of sweets, which accounts for a 38% growth in turnover compared to the previous year's same festival period, said the Minister.

Season's surge

During the festive seasons of Dasara and Deepavali, there has always been a significant surge in the demand for sweets. Keeping this in view, KMF had undertaken extensive pre-festival preparations in coordination with its member milk unions to meet the expected rise in demand, he said.

In other States

KMF presently procures an average of one crore litres of milk per day from dairy farmers across the State. Out of this, around 65 lakh litres of milk, curd, and UHT milk are sold daily in both State and out-of-State markets.

Under the "Nandini" brand, KMF markets a wide range of dairy products, including ghee, butter, paneer, sweets, milk powder, beverages, and more, totalling over 175 varieties.

Nandini products are available not only across Karnataka but also in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Goa, Kerala, Delhi, Assam, and even select overseas markets.

Deepavali: City's air quality moves from 'good' to 'moderate'

On Tuesday, six monitoring stations showed the air quality at a moderate level as per data recorded at 8 p.m.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

People bursting firecrackers on the occasion of Deepavali in Bengaluru on Tuesday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

While the air quality in Bengaluru ranged from "good" to "satisfactory" on the first day (October 20) of the Deepavali festivities, on Tuesday it was "moderate" and "satisfactory".

As per the Central Pollution Control Board, Air Quality Index (AQI) data recorded on October 20 at 8 p.m., five of the 14 stations in Bengaluru showed the air quality as "good." These stations are Hebbal (32 AQI), Homegowdanagar (29 AQI), Jayanagar 5th Block, Sanegurava Halli (49 AQI) and Silk Board (26 AQI).

Six stations, namely BTM Layout, BWSSB Kadubeesanahalli, Bapujinagar, City Railway Station, Kasturinagar and Shivapura, Peenya recorded satisfactory air quality.

Highest AQI

The highest recorded AQI was recorded at BWSSB Kadubeesanahalli (98 AQI) and City Railway Station (92 AQI).

AQI was not recorded at three stations - Jigani, Peenya and RVCE Mallasandra - due to insufficient data for computing AQI.

On Tuesday, six monitoring stations showed the air quality at a moderate level as per data recorded at 8 p.m.

AQI ranging between 101 and 200 is considered moderate and the possible health impacts are breathing discomfort to people asthma and heart diseases

The highest AQI was recorded at BWSSB Kadubeesanahalli (124 AQI) and City Railway Station (118 AQI). Six other stations recorded satisfactory air quality while one Homegowdanagar (44 AQI) recorded good air quality.

What AQI means

AQI ranging from 0-50 is considered good with minimal health impact. The AQI ranging from 51 t to 100 is considered satisfactory and the possible health impacts are minor breathing discomfort to sensitive people.

AQI ranging between 101 and 200 is considered moderate and the possible health impacts are breathing discomfort to the people with asthma and heart diseases.

AQI ranging from 301-400 is considered very poor, and the health impacts are respiratory illness on prolonged exposure.

AQI ranging from 401-500 is considered severe, and the health impacts affect healthy people and seriously impact those with existing diseases.

Over 75 injured in firecracker accidents in Bengaluru on Tuesday

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The festive spirit of Deepavali turned sombre in Bengaluru for 75 people, including several children, who sustained injuries from firecrackers.

Overall, in the last two days of the festival, over 100 patients sought treatment at various eye hospitals across the city for cracker-related injuries. Of these, six are likely to lose vision partially, doctors said.

At the State-run Minto Ophthalmic Hospital, 13 cases were reported on Tuesday, including six children, with two admitted as in-patients. Narayana Nethralaya treated 46 patients, 27 of them children. Sankara Eye Hospital recorded 13 cases, and Dr. Agarwal's Eye Hospital treated three, alongside several other cases at private facilities across Bengaluru.

Vision loss risk

Over the last two days, Minto Hospital has treated 17 patients of which six required surgical intervention. Doctors said six patients are at risk of partial vision loss. On Tuesday alone, four new cases were registered, including two grievous injuries caused mainly by bijli, atom bomb, and flower pot crackers.

Narayana Nethralaya managed 51, including 20 adults and 31 children in the last two days. Doctors said that 38 injuries occurred while individuals were bursting crackers themselves, while 13 bystanders were hurt due to others' carelessness.

A person undergoing treatment at Minto Hospital in Bengaluru. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Among the cases, a 10-year-old boy sustained burns to his eyelashes and hair while lighting a cracker, with chemical particles causing corneal abrasions and swelling. In another incident, a 67-year-old foreign national walking along the road was struck in the eye by a spark from a nearby burst.

Over 60% children

Between October 19 and 21, Narayana Nethralaya reported 43 patients with eye injuries.

While 40 were treated medically, three required surgical intervention.

Hospital director Naren Shetty noted that over 60% of those injured were children. He cited the case of an 18-year-old who suffered severe eye trauma while lighting an atom bomb cracker and a 10-year-old with burns and corneal abrasions following a nearby explosion.

"Primary treatment involves thorough eye washing, medication, and, in severe cases, surgical management," Dr. Shetty said, urging the public to use protective eyewear and exercise caution during the festivities.

At Sankara Eye Hospital, 16 firecracker-related injuries were reported, including six among children, with one patient requiring sutures for an eyebrow injury. Dr. Agarwal's Eye Hospital treated three young patients for minor redness and irritation.

Protective gear

Doctors across hospitals have emphasised the importance of public awareness on eye safety and the use of protective gear, particularly for children.

Karnataka temples to perform *Gau Puja* on *Balipadyami*

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Hindu Religious Institutions and Charitable Endowments Department on Tuesday issued a circular directing the temples operating under its jurisdiction to conduct *Gau Puja* (cow worship) on the occasion of *Balipadyami* on Wednesday as part of Deepavali festivities in Karnataka.

The circular, dated October 21, stated that *Gau Puja* would be observed on the day of Deepavali (*Balipadyami*) in all notified temples coming under the purview of the department in the State.

"In the Hindu faith, the cow, revered as *Gau Mata* (mother), holds a special and sacred status. In this regard, and to raise public awareness about the importance and protection of cows, which form an integral part of India's religious and cultural heritage, temples have been requested to bathe the cows, decorate them with turmeric, vermilion, and flowers, offer *Gograsa* (a mixture of rice, jaggery, fruits, etc.), and conduct the Gau Puja ceremony in the evening to mark the occasion," the circular added.

There are close to 35,000 government-owned temples in Karnataka.

On the day of *Balipadyami*, the temples should bathe cows, adorn them with flowers, *arashinakunkuma* (turmeric and kumkuma), and offer jaggery, rice and fruits as "*Gograsa*".

Couple living together found dead

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A couple living together were found dead at their rented accomodation in Jigani, near Anekal, on Monday. The deceased have been identified as Seema Nayak, 25, and Rakesh Nayak, 23, natives of Odisha. Rakesh was working in a security service firm, while Seema was working in a supermarket.

According to the police, the duo is suspected to have ended their lives two days ago, which came to light on Monday as neighbours noticed a foul smell emanating from the house and no movement from inside as the house remained locked for a few days. The neighbors grew suspicious and broke open a window to find the couple dead inside. Reportedly, the couple were staying with a friend, who left the house on Friday after the couple started fighting.

A prima facie investigation suggested that Seema was allegedly upset over Rakesh's alcohol addiction, and the couple fought over the same. The police suspect that Rakesh might have killed himself following the fight. Following this, Seema too might have ended her life.

(If you are in distress or having suicidal tendencies, please reach out to these 24/7 helplines: KIRAN at 1800-599-0019 or Arogya Sahayavani at 104 for help.)

Delegation meets CM, urges to ensure justice, security for victims' families

DHARMASTHALA CASE

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A delegation of representatives from the campaign 'Kondavaru Yaaru?' (Who Killed Women in Dharmasthala?') submitted a 10-point demand letter and held discussions with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday. The delegation urged the government to ensure justice for the victims' families and adequate security arrangements for women in

Earlier this week, the delegation met Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao, who is also the Minister in charge of Dakshina Kannada

connection with the alleged rapes and murders in and around Dharmasthala.

The organisers of the campaign said that a 'Let's Light a Lamp for Justice' movement would be held across the State on the evening of Wednesday. As part of the campaign, on November 1, a postcard and signature movement will also be launched to further spread awareness on the demands of the campaign, which include empowering the SIT to conduct and complete a full and fair investigation.

The month-long awareness campaign will conclude with a women's convention on December 10 which is World Human Rights Day.

The delegation also met Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao in Bengaluru, who is also the Minister in charge of Dakshina Kannada, on October 18.

Maharashtra official praises KEA

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Sameer Kumar Biswas, retired Additional Chief Secretary and Chairman of the Maharashtra government's Admission Regulating Authority for various professional courses, visited the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) for the second time on Tuesday. During his visit, he obtained detailed information about the State's Common Entrance Test (CET) and the seat allocation process.

KEA's Administrative Officer, Islauddin Gadyal, provided a comprehensive presentation on the entire system. Mr. Gadyal explained in detail how KEA conducts simultaneous seat allotments for as many as 21 different types of courses.

Mr. Biswas is studying the KEA model as a possible reference for Maharashtra. In addition to understanding the seat allocation system, he inquired about the strict measures taken against candidates who fail to report to colleges after being allotted seats. He expressed appreciation for KEA's innovative and student-friendly measures, noting that the authority's functioning was exemplary.

THE HINDU IN SCHOOL PRESENTS SCHOOL BUZZ
A Newspaper exclusively curated for School Students

INTERNATIONAL SPORTS DAY CELEBRATED

Bunt's Sangha R.N.S. Vidyaniketan, Vijaynagar, Bengaluru, celebrated International Sports Day. Treasurer Mr. Ashok Shetty and Principal Mrs. Usha Santosh inaugurated the event by lighting the lamp and highlighting the importance of sports in life.

DASARA CELEBRATED

Indira Krishna Vidyashala (IKV School), Vasantapura, Bengaluru, celebrated Dasara with the theme "Jai Jagannath – The Lord of the Universe." The auditorium was adorned with creative decorations, including a Konark Wheel selfie stand and eight themed tables narrating the story of Lord Jagannath — from Krishna's divine heart to the grand Ratha Yatra. Students depicted each phase with art, models, and storytelling, covering rituals like Snana Purnima, Maha Prasadam, and the transformation of Neela Madhava. The event beautifully blended devotion, creativity, and learning, reflecting the school's commitment to cultural education and holistic development.

CUBS, BULBULS, SCOUTS, AND GUIDES UNITS LAUNCHED

Rays Institutions inaugurated their Cubs, Bulbuls, Scouts, and Guides units in a vibrant ceremony marked by enthusiasm and discipline. The event was graced by Mr. P.G.R. Sindhia, State Chief Commissioner of Bharat Scouts and Guides – Karnataka and former minister, who inspired students by highlighting the values of leadership, discipline, and service. Chairperson Ms. Harshitha Krishna, Academic Dean Mr. Loka Prakasha Narayana, Principal of Rays Montessori Ms. Snehal Muthane, and Principal of Rays Institutions (ICSE) Mr. Keerthi N. Gowda led the oath-taking ceremony. Students from Grades 1–8 were inducted, reflecting the school's commitment to holistic education and character-building.

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Chimps imbibe two cocktails' worth of ethanol daily from ripe fruits

Do chimpanzees actively prefer fruits with higher alcohol content, or are they simply attracted to the sweetness of ripe fruits? Robert Dudley, who first proposed the drunken monkey hypothesis in 2014, has theorised that alcohol in fruits could serve as a cue for ripeness — a signal of extra calories and perhaps enhanced taste

Ipsita Herlekar

While humans have been drinking alcohol for thousands of years, some scientists think this history could go back millions of years. According to the drunken monkey hypothesis, humans' taste and indeed preference for alcohol may have evolutionary roots, shaped by our primate ancestors consuming small doses of alcohol found inside ripe fruit. Our bodies may also have evolved to metabolise alcoholic compounds more effectively as a result.

In a new study in *Science Advances*, researchers at the University of California (UC), Berkeley, analysed ripe fruits eaten by wild chimpanzees, the closest living relatives of humans, to discover that chimpanzees could be ingesting as much alcohol as in one to two glasses of wine every day.

An adult female and an infant chimpanzee feeding on *Ficus sur* in Kibale National Park, Uganda, 2005. ALAIN HOULE (HARVARD UNIVERSITY)

Ripe fruits

Chimpanzees share about 98.8% of their DNA with humans, making them an excellent model for exploring questions about human evolution. Their fruit-heavy diet is also believed to resemble that of our last common ancestor. By estimating the chimpanzees' daily alcohol intake from these fruits, researchers can gain insights into the levels that may have been ingested by this ancestor as well.

The researchers conducted their studies in two forests in Africa: one in Ngogo in Kibale National Park in Uganda, home to one of the world's largest known chimpanzee communities; and the other in the Taï National Park in Côte d'Ivoire.

From previous observations, the researchers had already identified the fruit varieties the chimpanzees consumed. They collected ripe fruits from these feeding sites – sometimes plucked directly from branches, at others scooped up from the ground just after they dropped – and tested them in the lab for their alcohol content. Since they also knew the approximate quantity of fruit a single chimpanzee ate, they were able to estimate the amount of alcohol the individual ingested in a single day.

The lab results confirmed that the fruits the chimpanzees consumed did contain small amounts of ethanol. The microbe yeast, which is used to brew beer and wine, is naturally present in fruits. When the fruits ripen, their sugar content increases and the yeast ferments these sugars into alcohol.

'Nearly two drinks'

The lab results also showed that ripe fruits contained less than 1% alcohol. To compare, a pint of beer (473 ml) typically contains 4-6% alcohol by volume. However, unlike humans, a large portion of a chimpanzee's diet consists of fruits: nearly three-quarters of their intake, amounting to around 4.5 kg per day.

"The chimpanzees are eating 5-10% of their body weight in a day in ripe fruit, so even low concentrations yield a high daily total, a substantial dosage of alcohol," Robert Dudley, an evolutionary physiologist at UC Berkeley, and coauthor of the study, said.

Researchers calculated that the total alcohol intake from consuming fruits amounted to roughly 14 grams – equivalent to a glass of wine, or two when adjusted for a chimpanzee's body weight.

"Across all sites, male and female chimpanzees are consuming about 14 grams of pure ethanol per day in their diet, which is equal to one standard American drink," said Alexsey Maro, a PhD researcher at UC Berkeley, and the first author of the paper. "When you adjust for body mass, because chimps weigh almost 40 kg versus a typical human at 70 kg, it goes up to nearly two drinks."

'An evolved attraction'

Among the 21 fruit varieties the researchers identified in the chimpanzees' diet, the primates showed a strong preference for sticky figs (*Ficus mucuso*). Only 75 of these figs, which are abundant and sugary, can contain as much as 10 grams of alcohol – a significant amount when consumed in a single bout.

> These findings suggest that an attraction to ethanol is deeply embedded in animal and human evolutionary history
>
> **KIMBERLEY HOCKINGS**
>
> University of Exeter

However, despite consuming as much as 14 g of alcohol in a day, the chimpanzees didn't display any obvious signs of intoxication. Researchers suggested this was because they didn't imbibe the alcohol in one go but spread it throughout the day. The researchers also said such low-level exposure to natural alcohol may have influenced key physiological adaptations.

"Our research shows that chimpanzees in Cantanchez National Park in Guinea-Bissau share fermented fruits with each other and use leaf tools to access fermented palm wine harvested by humans, indicating an evolved attraction and tolerance to ethanol," Kimberley Hockings, a primatologist at the University of Exeter who has been studying apes in West Africa, said. "These findings suggest that an attraction to ethanol is deeply embedded in animal and human evolutionary history."

This interpretation is aligned with research by Matthew Carrigan, an associate professor of biology at College of Central Florida, USA. His work has concluded that about 10 million years ago, the last common ancestor of living African apes and modern humans experienced a genetic mutation that increased the rate of ethanol metabolism 40-fold.

Cue for ripeness

The UC Berkeley study also raises a few questions. Do chimpanzees actively prefer fruits with higher alcohol content, or are they simply attracted to the sweetness of ripe fruits?

Dr. Dudley, who first proposed the drunken monkey hypothesis in 2014, has theorised that alcohol in fruits could serve as a cue for ripeness – a signal of extra calories and perhaps enhanced taste that adds to the pleasure of eating.

While previous studies have documented alcohol use in chimpanzees, the UC Berkeley effort is the first to measure the alcohol content of the fruits they consume.

Tetsuro Matsuzawa, former director of the Primate Research Institute at Kyoto University, Japan, said, "These observations contribute to a growing body of evidence for the drunken monkey hypothesis. From tool-assisted palm wine drinking to the spontaneous consumption of fermented fruits, wild chimpanzees consistently show behaviours that suggest an evolved attraction to ethanol."

(Ipsita Herlekar is an independent science writer. ipsitaherlekar@gmail.com)

THE GIST

Chimpanzees share approximately 98.8% of their DNA with humans. Their diet is also believed to resemble that of our last common ancestor. By estimating chimpanzees' alcohol intake, researchers can gain insights into this ancestor's diet

The surveyed chimpanzees consumed 5-10% of their body weight in ripe fruit per day, so even low concentrations yielded a high daily total. Alcohol intake amounted to 14 grams of pure ethanol per day. When adjusted for body mass, it amounted to two drinks

Among the 21 fruit identified in the chimpanzees' diet, the primates showed a preference for sticky figs. Only 75 of these figs can contain as much as 10 grams of alcohol. Researchers say such exposure to alcohol may have influenced key physiological adaptations

BIG SHOT

In this photo provided by Ann Walter, she and her husband, Hayden, stand in front of a piece of NASA research equipment attached to a parachute that fell from the sky near their home in Edmonson, Texas, on October 2. AP

QUESTION CORNER

Flashes in the pan

By Vasudevan Mukunth

Q: What are transient lunar phenomena?

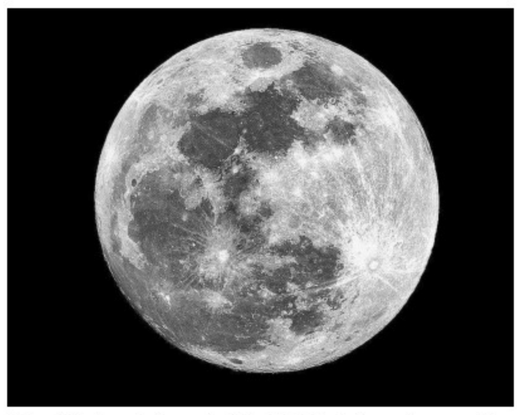
A: For centuries, sky-gazers have reported seeing peculiar, short-lived events on the moon's surface, from strange flashes of light to hazy glows and patches of unusual colour. These fleeting occurrences are called transient lunar phenomena (TLPs). A TLP can last anywhere from a few seconds to several hours before vanishing.

Scientists don't know what they really are or why they happen, but they've interpreted the TLPs' existence to mean the moon is more dynamic than they once believed.

People have documented reports of these mysterious events for a thousand years; even the Apollo 11 astronauts reported witnessing a luminous glow in 1969. The most common sightings include bright, star-like points of light, reddish or coloured glows, and some sort of mists obscuring the view. Some of the most active areas for these phenomena include the Aristarchus and Plato craters.

While scientists are still exploring the origins of TLPs, there are a few leading theories. One is the release of gases such as radon and argon from beneath the moon's surface. This outgassing could be triggered by gravitational stresses or the heating of the surface, causing the released gas and dust to glow or reflect sunlight. Another likely cause is meteoroid impacts, which are frequent on the moon because it lacks a protective atmosphere. These high-velocity collisions can generate a flash of light.

Other possibilities include electrostatic phenomena, where lunar dust becomes charged and levitates, and disturbances in the earth's own atmosphere that distort our view of the moon.



Scientists have interpreted the TLPs' existence to mean the moon is more dynamic than they once believed. MIKE PETRUCCI/UNSPLASH

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Number of new births in Italy in the first seven months of 2025

1.98 In lakh. This is a 6.3% decrease from the same period of 2024, the national statistics bureau ISTAT said. Last year, the country recorded 3,70,000 new births, the lowest figure since Italy's unification in 1861, and the 16th year in a row in which the figure declined. REUTERS

Number of cases registered in Delhi related to crackers

150 Police have registered more than 100 cases across Delhi over alleged violation of the Supreme Court's guidelines on bursting firecrackers. The Supreme Court has restricted the bursting of firecrackers to October 19 and 20, between 6 AM and 7 AM, and between 8-10 PM. PTI

Afghans deported from Pakistan's Punjab in October

22,000 The Punjab government of Pakistan this month deported around 22,000 Afghan nationals residing in the province illegally besides closing down the last Afghan refugee camp, a Punjab police spokesperson said. PTI

Russia-linked suspects held in Poland since the year 2022

55 These people, suspected of acting on behalf of Moscow, have been detained in Poland since the start of Russia's 2022 full-scale invasion of Ukraine. "These people who acted to the detriment of Poland have all been charged under Article 130 of the penal code", said Jacek Dobrzynski. PTI

The estimated cost to rebuild Syria after the civil war

216 In $ billion. The cost is almost 10 times Syria's 2024 gross domestic product. The World Bank says the rebuilding may cost between $140 billion and $345 billion, but their "conservative best estimate" is $216 billion. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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On CBI takeovers: a judicial standpoint

The Supreme Court has transferred the investigation into the Karur stampede from an SIT to the CBI. However, the top court's reasoning, entirely based on petitioners' pleadings, unaccompanied by prima facie evidence, is simply not enough to shift a case to the CBI

LETTER & SPIRIT

Krishnadas Rajagopal

On October 13, the Supreme Court abruptly applied the brakes on a fledgling investigation of a Madras High Court-appointed Special Investigation Team (SIT) and a State-constituted Enquiry Commission headed by Justice (retired) Aruna Jagadeesan into the Karur stampede (on September 27, 41 people were killed during a stampede at a political rally hosted by actor-cum-politician Vijay in Karur district, Tamil Nadu).

Both the SIT and Justice Jagadeesan were directed to immediately hand over papers and evidence to the officers of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). The top court's decision to shift the Karur stampede investigation to the CBI was powered by two "sweeping" factors – the "political undertones" of the case and a perception that top-ranking Tamil Nadu Police officers made comments in a press conference to the extent that their subordinates were not at fault. The Bench of Justices J.K. Maheshwari and N.V. Anjaria concluded that the conduct of the State's senior police officers "may create doubt in the minds of the citizenry about the impartiality and fairness of the investigation", necessitating its transfer to the CBI.

The CBI is a central agency governed by the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946 which traces its origins to the Special Police Establishment (SPE) formed in 1941 to weed out corruption in war-time procurements. Once coined by the Supreme Court as a "caged parrot" of the Centre, the CBI is considered a premier investigative body which probes a wide range of crimes with inter-State and national ramifications.

However, the top court's reasoning, entirely based on petitioners' pleadings and "sweeping remarks" unaccompanied by *prima facie* evidence to show the SIT probe was riddled by bias, are simply not enough to shift a case to the CBI without the express consent of the State government. While it is well-settled that a constitutional court can order a CBI probe as judicial review is part of the Basic Structure, the court, be it the Supreme Court or a State High Court, must not direct a CBI enquiry in a "routine manner". A judicial order of transfer of a probe to the CBI is only the 'last resort'.

'Measure of last resort'

The Supreme Court has a well-developed jurisprudence, evolved through judgments, which imposes significant self-restraint on the exercise of the extraordinary constitutional power to order a CBI probe under Article 32 (for the Supreme Court) or Article 226 (High Court) of the Constitution. The top court has held that the exercise of inherent powers to direct the CBI to investigate must be exercised "sparingly, cautiously, and only in exceptional situations". The court has consistently cautioned that a CBI investigation should not be directed "merely because a party casts certain aspersions or harbours a subjective lack of confidence in the State Police".

"It goes without saying that for invoking this power, the court concerned must be satisfied that the material placed *prima facie* discloses commission of offences and necessitates a CBI investigation to ensure the fundamental right to a fair and impartial investigation, or where the complexity, scale, or national ramification of such allegations demands expertise of central agency," the court has explained.

Human cost: Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) President and actor Vijay's rally in Karur on September 27. MOORTHY. M

Judicial precedents have underscored that an order directing an investigation to be carried out by CBI should be treated as a "measure of last resort", justified only when the constitutional court is convinced that the integrity of the process has been compromised or has reasons to believe that it may get compromised to a degree that shakes the conscience of courts or public faith in the justice delivery system.

Such circumstances compelling the judicial transfer of an investigation to the CBI from the State Police may typically arise when the materials placed on record before a court *prima facie* point towards systemic failure, the involvement of high-ranking State officials or politically influential persons, or when the local police's conduct itself creates a reasonable doubt in the minds of the citizenry regarding their ability to conduct a neutral probe.

In the absence of these factors, constitutional courts must avoid placing unnecessary burdens on a specialised agency with "matters that do not satisfy the threshold of an exceptional case".

The reason for the shift

The 25-page order of the Supreme Court shifting the Karur stampede probe to the CBI shows that the decision was largely made on the basis of "allegations" raised by the petitioners, who have been identified as relatives of victims and public-spirited persons.

The court noted that the tragedy which claimed 41 lives and left over a 100 injured at a rally organised by Vijay, founder of the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), at Velusamypuram in Karur District had "stirred public sentiment and shook the conscience of people across the nation". The court said that petitioners have made "allegations" that the ruling dispensation, which has "control over the immense machinery of the State", did not discharge its functions "properly". The Bench, in this context, referred to averment in the petitions that top police officers, held a press conference during which they "robustly" defended their colleagues, raising the apprehension that the probe by the SIT comprising Tamil Nadu Police officers would not be held fairly. It recorded submissions in the petitions that the police had denied permission earlier, in January, to another political party to conduct a rally at the same place where the tragedy occurred during the TVK event. The court voiced this vague notion to hint at "political undertones" at play.

These factors led to the court to *prima facie* conclude that there was "a doubt in the minds of the general public about the independence and impartiality of the investigation" and victims should be spared of being caught in the "political tussle between two sides".

Previous judgments

A cursory read of the order shows that the decision to shift the probe to the CBI was entirely based on the allegations levelled by the petitioners. The Supreme Court judgment in *Secretary, Minor Irrigation & Rural Engg. Services UP* has observed that the power of a court to shift an investigation to the CBI "can be exercised only in cases where there is sufficient material to come to a *prima facie* conclusion that there is a need for such inquiry. It is not sufficient to have such material in the pleadings".

Secondly, the Supreme Court did not specify a single instance of bias or delay by the Tamil Nadu Police's SIT. In a Constitution Bench judgment in *State of West Bengal versus Committee for Protection of Democratic Rights*, the top court had held that the extraordinary power to transfer probes to CBI "cannot and should not be exercised in a routine manner without examining the complexities, nature of offence and sometimes the tardy progress in the investigations involving high officials of the State investigating agency itself".

In an October 16, 2025 order authored by Justice Maheshwari himself in the case of *Legislative Council UP versus Sushil Kumar*, the judge noted that public order (Entry 1) and the police (Entry 2) was a State subject falling in List II of Schedule VII of the Constitution. "It is a primary responsibility of the investigating agency of the State Police to investigate all offences which are committed within its jurisdiction. The investigations can be entrusted to the CBI only in exceptional circumstances," Justice Maheshwari had written. In *K.V. Rajendran versus Superintendent of Police, CBCID*, the top court had held that a transfer of a case to CBI could only be justified by showing sufficient material to prove that the State investigation was dishonest or malafide.

Thirdly, ambiguous inferences about "political undertones", "political tussles between two sides" and reported comments made by police officers in a press meet cannot be grounds for making incursions into a State's power to investigate crimes within its own jurisdiction, especially when Tamil Nadu had withdrawn its general consent to CBI investigation in 2023. The Supreme Court has further constituted a committee headed by former top court judge, Justice Ajay Rastogi, to oversee the CBI probe. Such an arrangement does not have any statutory backing.

Besides, the SIT was formed separately by the Madras High Court in the Karur stampede case. The Justice Jagadeesan Commission of Enquiry was constituted on the very night of the tragedy. There had been no allegation of specific bias levelled against the SIT or the Enquiry Commission, warranting a change of the probe agency. The Madras High Court had also previously refused a specific demand for transfer to the CBI. In the *Shree Shree Ram Janki Asthan Tapovan Mandir* judgment, the top court had held that it was not for the judiciary to make sweeping remarks about the State government and its functionaries and subject them to CBI investigation merely based on allegations brought before it. The court said the judiciary has to understand that the "functioning in the government is by different officers and the working of the Executive has in-built checks and balances".

THE GIST

- The top court's decision to shift the Karur stampede investigation to the CBI was powered by two "sweeping" factors — the "political undertones" of the case and a perception that top-ranking Tamil Nadu Police officers made comments in a press conference to the extent that their subordinates were not at fault.
- Judicial precedents have underscored that an order directing an investigation to be carried out by CBI should be treated as a "measure of last resort", justified only when the constitutional court is convinced that the integrity of the process has been compromised.
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14 years on, Namma Metro works crawl at 7 km a year

The project has been mired in delays, missed deadlines, and administrative inefficiencies that continue to cause inconvenience to lakhs of commuters; BMRCL officials say land acquisition issues have been their biggest challenge

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengaluru's Namma Metro has completed 14 years of operations, yet its progress remains painfully slow. Since its inception, the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has managed to complete only 96 km of its network, averaging a modest 7 km (6.86 km per year).

Despite its crucial role in easing the city's notorious traffic congestion, the project has been mired in delays, missed deadlines, and administrative inefficiencies that continue to cause inconvenience to lakhs of commuters.

October 20 marked 14 years since the opening of Namma Metro's first operational stretch, Reach 1, connecting M.G. Road to Baiyyappanahalli on October 20, 2011. The launch was a historic milestone, signalling the beginning of South India's first metro system and the city's entry into the mass rapid transit era. Over time, the network grew to become India's second-largest metro, spanning 96.1 km behind only the Delhi Metro.

However, this growth has come at a snail's pace. What was envisioned as a transformative project has instead become synonymous with delays. Bengaluru's first underground metro line, inaugurated in 2016, also took years longer than planned. The prolonged construction and constant road diversions have left citizens grappling with daily traffic chaos.

The prolonged construction and constant road diversions have left citizens grappling with daily traffic chaos. K. MURALI KUMAR

Administrative delays

"A major portion of Namma Metro's delays are administrative rather than technical," said railway activist K.N. Krishna Prasad. "Both the Centre and the State, who jointly manage BMRCL, have failed to coordinate effectively. The lack of leadership stability and inadequate technical expertise among top officials have only worsened the problem."

He pointed out that for long periods, BMRCL operated without a full-time Managing Director, and those who occupied the position often lacked the technical background to lead such a complex infrastructure project. "Given Bengaluru's exploding population and transport needs, the metro should have been prioritised. Instead, poor coordination and leadership gaps have slowed progress," he added.

'Misplaced priorities'

Transport expert M.N. Srihari called for a shift in government priorities. "Instead of focusing on long-term metro expansion, authorities often turn to quick-fix projects like flyovers and now tunnel roads. These offer short-term relief but don't address the root cause of congestion. Metro expansion should be treated as a city-shaping investment, not as one among many infrastructure projects," he said.

Mr. Srihari pointed out that the BMRCL's potential remains largely untapped due to poor planning and a lack of technical direction. "Land acquisition hurdles, frequent design changes, and poor coordination among agencies continue to slow the project. What Bengaluru needs is a seamless, high-capacity metro network to tackle its traffic and pollution problems," he added.

BMRCL officials, meanwhile, have attributed the delays to factors beyond their immediate control. "Land acquisition issues have been one of our biggest challenges. Acquiring property from private owners, the Forest Department, and other government bodies takes time. Additionally, public interest litigations (PILs) and environmental clearance delays further complicate timelines," said a senior BMRCL official.

Costliest metro in India

Officials cited the time-consuming process of obtaining permissions for tree cutting, utility shifting, and safety inspections as key reasons for slow progress. "Inter-departmental coordination remains a bottleneck. Even small procedural delays can hold up entire stretches of work," the official added.

Namma Metro is the most expensive metro network in the country in terms of ticket fares.

In February, BMRCL revised fares, initially proposing a hike of over 110%. Following strong public backlash, the increase was capped at 71%.

However, the lack of transparency surrounding the fare revision process drew criticism from commuters and civic groups.

BMRCL came under fire for withholding the Fare Fixation Committee (FFC) report for several months before releasing it publicly.

Key challenges facing Namma Metro

- Frequent project delays and missed deadlines
- Administrative inefficiency
- Lack of technical leadership, especially at the level of BMRCL Managing Director
- Land acquisition hurdles
- Coordination issues among multiple departments
- High fare hikes and lack of transparency especially on FFC report

Private school managements oppose mandatory building safety certificates for recognition renewal

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

The Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL) has invited applications online for the Recognition Renewal (RR) of aided and unaided schools for the year 2025-26.

However, private school managements have objected to making building safety, fire safety, and land conversion certificates mandatory for the RR of schools started before 2017-18 even though the case is pending in the High Court.

As per the rules of Karnataka Education Act, 1983 and the Karnataka Educational Institutions (Recognition of Primary and Secondary Schools) Rules, 1999, it is mandatory for all private and aided schools to submit an application for first recognition/renewal of recognition with the necessary documents within the prescribed period. If any school is functioning without recognition, the government will take action.

If any school is functioning without recognition, the government will take action. FILE PHOTO

Fake certificates

In this context, online applications have been invited for recognition of new schools and renewal of existing schools; physical applications will not be accepted for any reason.

In some districts, fake certificates regarding building safety, fire safety certificate, land conversion and other documents were allegedly uploaded online by the school managements.

The DSEL then instructed the Deputy Directors of Public Instruction (DDPI) to contact the department concerned and verify the authenticity of the certificates.

D. Shashikumar, general secretary of Associated Managements of Primary and Secondary Schools in Karnataka (KAMS), said that as the case relating to the submission of fire safety, building safety, and land conversion certificates for RR is still pending in the High Court, conditional RR should be given to private schools.

"Earlier, on September 6, 2024, a meeting of various departments was held headed by Shalini Rajneesh, Chief Secretary to the Government, and decision was taken on fire safety, building safety, and other issues. However, the authorities have not implemented them so far. In addition, another meeting was held on July 24, 2025, headed by Additional Chief Secretary to the government, Tushar Giri Nath, and a committee was ordered to be formed and revise the earlier orders of fire and building safety. However, the department has not taken any action to implement this," said Mr. Shashikumar, adding that this could lead to the harassment of school managements.

Legislative committee

Meanwhile, MLC Puttanna has submitted a petition to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on October 10 this year to form a 'Legislative Committee' to resolve renewal recognition and other problems faced by private school managements that started before the year 2017-18.

The Chief Minister has instructed the Principal Secretary of the School Education Department to examine this request and take necessary action.

"I am happy that the Chief Minister has agreed to form a Legislative Committee. Therefore, conditional RR should be given to private schools until the committee submits its report," Mr. Shashikumar urged.

London Book of Records defends recognition of Shakti scheme, KSRTC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

After a row over the 'London Book of World Records' recognition for Karnataka's Shakti scheme and the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC), the London Book of Records issued a clarification defending its decision.

The London Book of World Records has issued a clarification in response to what it described as "defaming and tarnishing" reports published on social media platforms. On October 16, a social media post by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah celebrating world record recognitions for the State's Shakti Scheme and the KSRTC kicked off a row after opposition parties alleged that the certifying agency, the London Book of World Records, had been dissolved months earlier in the United Kingdom.

Following the backlash, the original post was deleted on October 17. By then, screenshots of the certificates and the X post had already gone viral.

In a release, the London Book of World Records stated that social media posts had created confusion regarding its registration and functioning. It clarified that the London Book of Records is a privately registered company under the Companies Act of 2006, with its registered office in England and Wales, and service offices in Pune and Delhi. The company, it said, was initially incorporated under Company No. 15807855 on June 28, 2024, at the Company House in Cardiff.

The London Book of World Records said that social media posts had created confusion regarding its registration and functioning. FILE PHOTO

However, the release added that this company was dissolved on July 15, 2025, and subsequently re-registered under a new number (16667234) on August 22, 2025, with the same name and management.

"There is no question of anything dubious, suspicious and issues of a dissolved company," the statement read, while adding that all contact details are available on the official website.

The organisation defended its recognition of the KSRTC and Shakti scheme for empowering women.

It described the initiative as a "testimony of exemplary achievement," noting that the recognition was based on public service excellence and jointly certified by international chairman Avinash Sakunde and Ivan Gacina, European Union Head, Republic of Croatia.

Don't harass Ola founder in the guise of probe into employee's death, HC directs city police

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has directed the Bengaluru police "not to harass" Bhavish Aggarwal, chairman and managing director of Ola Electric Technologies, and Subrat Kumar Das, the company's Head of Homologation Engineering, "in the guise of investigation" into the case of alleged abetment to suicide of one of the engineers of the company recently.

Justice Mohammad Nawaz passed the interim order on October 17 based on a petition filed by Mr. Aggarwal and Mr. Das, who have been arraigned as accused persons in the First Information Report (FIR) registered based on the complaint lodged by Ashwin Kannan, who is the brother of deceased, K. Aravind, 38. Aravind allegedly attempted suicide at his apartment in Chikkalasandra on September 28 and was rushed to a private hospital, where he later succumbed to his injuries despite medical efforts.

In a 28-page handwritten note, recovered from Aravind's room, he purportedly blamed his superiors for mental harassment and non-payment of salary and allowances, leading him to consume poison. The complainant, citing the note, alleged that the top officials of the company had subjected Aravind to "sustained workplace harassment and withheld his salary and dues, causing him severe distress".

Pointing out that ₹17.46 lakh was transferred to Aravind's bank account through NEFT on September 30, two days after his death, it has been claimed that the transfer of amount is "suspicious". However, the company, in a statement, had said that Aravind never raised any complaint or grievance regarding his employment or any harassment, and his role also did not involve any direct interaction with the company's top management.

ESCOMs' online services to remain unavailable

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Consumers across Karnataka will face temporary disruption in accessing the online services of all five Electricity Supply Companies (ESCOMs) due to emergency IT system maintenance. According to the Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited (BESCOM), online services such as electricity bill payment, name change and new connection will be unavailable from 8 p.m. on October 24 to 1 p.m. on October 25.

The outage will affect consumers using all ESCOMs portals as well as third-party payment platforms such as BESCOM Mitra app, Bangalore One, and Karnataka One. Services are expected to resume by October 25 in the afternoon.

From Page One

'White topping DPR being prepared for 500-km city roads'

Critising BJP MPs, "The people of Bengaluru have elected five MPs. If a single MP brings even ₹10 to Karnataka, I will bow to the punishment given by the people. During Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's time, grants were being received for everything. The contribution of current BJP MPs to the State is zero."

Speaking on potholes, Mr. Shivakumar said the authorities have closed more than 10,000 potholes across the city. " The Basavaraj Bommai government had submitted an affidavit to the court citing 20,000 potholes. The court was examining this. But our government has empowered people to report issues directly via photos, whether it's a pothole or garbage. This work has been done by the Siddaramaiah and D.K. Shivakumar governments". Mr. Shivakumar further said that decision on dividing Bengaluru into five corporations so governance reaches people's doorsteps will bear fruit in the future. Opposition parties cooperated in forming the GBA because they know the government implements decisions efficiently, he added.

Mr. Siddaramaiah, speaking on the occasion, also instructed GBA Chief Commissioner M. Maheshwar Rao to close all potholes and lay

In Gandhi Nagar

White topping and road development works worth ₹58.44 crore have been approved in Gandhinagar Constituency, covering 5.57 km. The project includes power, water and drainage ducts, rainwater system and parking bays.

Mr. Siddaramaiah, who launched the modernisation of Chickpet in Gandhinagar constituency, speaking about the uniqueness of the streets in the area, which dates to Kempegowda's time, said, "We once thought about widening the roads here. But Dinesh Gundu Rao did not agree," he added, praising the Gandhinagar MLA for planning and implementing the modernisation of roads and the development of Chickpet instead of widening them.

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Electoral roll revamp: the case for digital transformation

The Election Commission has initiated a Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls, starting in Bihar. However, outdated verification methods and lack of digital tools, stress the need for technology-driven reforms

Rajeev Kumar

After two decades of silence on one of India's most critical democratic processes, the Election Commission (EC) has finally revived the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls – beginning with Bihar, followed by West Bengal, and later the rest of the country.

Electoral rolls require continuous updating – removing those who have died or surrendered citizenship and transferring entries for individuals who shift residence to another constituency. A person must be an Indian citizen of at least 18 years of age and ordinarily resident in India to be included in the roll. However, concerns persist about including ineligible persons, especially those who may have entered from neighbouring countries, underscoring the need for transparent verification.

Although this long-awaited SIR aims to update the voter database, it became controversial due to procedural ambiguities and reliance on outdated and cumbersome Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs) instead of modern digital tools.

Outdated methods: Door-to-door distribution of enumeration forms and collection of filled forms under the SIR in Nawada, Bihar on July 13. ANI

Reliance on outdated methods

The last full-fledged SIR of electoral rolls in most Indian States was conducted between 2002 and 2004, when voter data was entirely paper-based, fragmented, and manually verified. Two decades later, despite India's sweeping digital transformation – from Aadhaar integration to the Digital India mission – the SIR 2025 framework remains rooted in outdated, paper-era procedures.

To mirror the 2002-04 model, 11 documents were mandated for voter verification, including birth certificate, passport, driving licence, domicile, caste certificate, and family register. However, the list excluded Aadhaar, India's most widely used and digitally verifiable ID. The justification that Aadhaar is not fool-proof and can be manipulated is only partly valid, as the same limitations apply to most other accepted documents. More reliable documents such as passports and government service IDs cover only a small section of the population.

Relying on limited and often inaccessible proofs contradicts the spirit of Digital India – turning what was meant to be a modern transparency reform into a bureaucratic bottleneck. The exclusion of Aadhaar made verification cumbersome and eroded public trust, particularly among migrants, first-time voters, and marginalised groups. The deeper issue lies in the failure to adopt interoperable, technology-based systems. Most approved databases remain isolated and inaccessible, preventing real-time verification and automated consistency checks. As a result, the SIR of 2025 repeated the old cycle of manual errors, delays, and inconsistencies.

A credible and trustworthy SIR requires a nationally unified, technology-driven framework that ensures accuracy, accountability, and transparency across India's billion-plus voters – not replicating the early 2000's outdated methods in 2025's digital era.

Aadhaar: a national digital ID

After extensive hearings and deliberation, Aadhaar was upheld as a valid and legitimate digital ID for electoral governance processes. Despite earlier concerns about privacy and misuse, the decision confirmed Aadhaar's operational legitimacy, establishing it as the backbone of India's digital ecosystem.

India has no comparable identity system. Aadhaar uniquely combines personalised details with biometric data, enabling reliable individual verification. It is the only centralised identity database accessible to multiple government and private agencies for authentication. Over time, Aadhaar verification has become routinely used for attendance systems, scholarship disbursement, welfare distribution, financial transactions, life certification, and educational institutions. In practice, it has emerged as India's de facto national digital identity register.

Therefore, rather than sidelining it, India's technical leadership must make the Aadhaar ecosystem more robust, tamper-proof, and transparent. It can securely integrate birth, death, and migration records with appropriate safeguards, ensuring that electoral rolls remain dynamically updated without compromising privacy. Integrating verified Aadhaar data into electoral roll management under strict data protection norms could eliminate duplication, automatically remove deceased voters, update residential shifts, and prevent fake or multiple registrations. Every addition, deletion, or correction would carry a digitally signed authorisation, create an unbroken digital audit trail, and ensure a transparent, verifiable, and accountable electoral database.

Data anomalies

The revised electoral roll of Bihar revealed significant inconsistencies, including deleting 3.66 lakh names without adequate clarity or traceable communication to those affected. The total number of electors was around 80 lakh (nearly 10%) lower than the estimated adult population of the State, with no verification trail explaining the reasons for such deletions or confirming that due notice had been given.

Further scrutiny exposed several irregularities such as centenarians being listed as new voters, and names re-included without supporting documents to maintain overall voter counts. There were also gross variations in demographic statistics, such as a decline in the gender ratio from 934 in September 2025 to 892 in the final roll, a statistically implausible shift, inconsistent with population trends. These anomalies suggest data entry errors or unverified mass revisions, raising serious questions about the integrity of the database.

Moreover, data transparency remained the primary concern. The lists of additions and deletions were not published in machine-readable formats, preventing independent audit or public scrutiny.

Collectively, these anomalies – from demographic distortions and manual errors to opaque data handling – expose the fragility of electoral roll management and underscore the urgent need for technology-driven verification and transparent data governance in revisions.

On ECI-Net

ECI-Net is among the world's largest and most dynamic digital databases, housing records of nearly one billion voters. Continuously updated through additions, address changes, and profile modifications, it is searchable by Electoral Photo Identity Card (EPIC) ID and voter-name and administered by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Pune, India's premier computing R&D institution. Globally, few systems match the scale, functionality, and democratic significance of this mission-critical database.

By design, ECI-Net can detect duplicates, flag inconsistencies, and facilitate corrections through authorised verification. Its architecture can instantly produce real-time demographic and statistical reports transparently and accurately. With the integration of data analytic APIs, the system can automatically identify and resolve most anomalies and demographic inconsistencies identified during recent revisions.

However, the lack of disclosure and system-level analytics raises serious concerns. If automated audit and analytical tools already exist – as expected in a database of this scale – they could have easily detected duplication, demographic distortions, and data irregularities without large-scale manual intervention. The failure to utilise these digital capabilities suggests institutional inertia or deliberate avoidance of technology-based transparency. Such practices weaken confidence in the integrity of existing SoPs. Despite strong technical expertise within its leadership, the reliance on manual verification over verifiable, software-driven protocols remains inexplicable. Until data-driven audits and system-level transparency are prioritised, claims of purification of electoral rolls will continue to invite public scepticism and institutional introspection.

The way ahead

Today, India has one of the world's most advanced digital ecosystems – from Aadhaar-linked databases and UPI to data analytics and e-governance. Yet, the procedures guiding SIR 2025 show little reflection of this progress. The weaknesses are not merely administrative but structural, stemming from the absence of traceability, and database integration. Reforming the SoPs is therefore not optional; it is vital for safeguarding democratic credibility.

The electoral roll must be recognised as a living, dynamic national asset rather than a static, state-bound record. Its accuracy directly shapes the integrity of elections and public confidence in electoral governance.

Recent judicial observations have underscored the need to learn from the Bihar experience as preparations begin for a nationwide revision. Future SIR exercises must demonstrate procedural correctness, visible fairness, transparency, and accountability. The focus should shift to software-driven verification, digital audit trails, and real-time corrections. The ECI-Net should be made more user-friendly, technical glitches should be fixed promptly, and an efficient and quick grievance redressal mechanism should be incorporated.

The 2025 SIR must not become another verification ritual; it must transform into a trust revolution powered by technology based on transparency, verification, and integrity.

Rajeev Kumar is a former Professor of Computer Science & Engineering at IIT Kharagpur, IIT Kanpur, BITS Pilani, and JNU, and a former scientist at DRDO and DST.

Language in conversation

Vaishali R. Venkat

"Genie, my mom says I can cuddle a cute little baby in my arms, and it's just two months away."

His eyes twinkling in the moonlight, the Genius Genie smiled. He said, "Ah, little Moon, your mother is pregnant. But you know, 'pregnant' isn't just about babies."

"Really, Genie? I think being pregnant means there must be a baby involved all the time!"

"Dear Moon, most people think that, but the word 'pregnant' itself is pregnant with surprises, ready to unfold when you least expect it."

Moon furrowed her brows and blinked, her eyes wide with wonder. "Genie, I don't understand. How can a word be pregnant?"

"Some words are like treasure chests, full of meaning waiting to be discovered."

"So, no babies to cuddle this time?"

Genie nodded, smiling. "Exactly, Moon. The word 'pregnant' means 'full of something,' like qualities, ideas, feelings, or secrets that are waiting to be discovered. For example, the sky is pregnant with countless stars, each one glimmering like gold. Look at the ocean. It's pregnant with whispering waves. The night air is pregnant with the scent of salt and the hush of still night, even amid the roaring waves."

"Wow, Genie! The sky, the ocean, and even the air can become pregnant in a different sense. Surprising! Words can be so magical."

"Sometimes a moment is so important and quiet that it's called a 'pregnant pause.' For instance, the waves seem to hold their breath, pausing before they burst onto the shore, or when a tide hesitates for a heartbeat before rolling in again. In real life, it's like when your teacher stops mid-sentence and everyone waits curiously to hear the next word, or when a puppy freezes before pouncing, full of excitement. It's like the pause is pregnant with what's about to happen."

"But how do I use 'pregnant pause' in a sentence?"

"A pregnant pause hangs in the air before the teacher announces the winner. Also, a pregnant pause falls over the room as everyone waits for the secret to be revealed."

"Is there any other word like 'pregnant pause'?"

"Dear Moon, 'pregnant pause' isn't a word. It's an idiom, a group of words that together mean something entirely different from their literal meaning. For example, when someone says 'it's raining cats and dogs,' the phrase doesn't mean animals are falling from the sky; it just means it's raining heavily."

"Got it!. What are the other related words?"

"Ah, words are like families, and the words 'pregnancy' and 'pregnantly' are little branches from the same root. 'Pregnancy' means a state of being full and 'pregnantly' describes something done or said in a way that carries a lot of meaning. We can meet the other members of this family another time, Moon."

"Any examples, Genie?"

"The poet's verse is pregnant with peace, and it's a kind of poetic pregnancy. Further, when your mom gives you a silent look that says more than a thousand words, she's looking pregnantly, without speaking."

"Cool, I got it Genie."

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

With the high profile mayoral elections in New York city due in a fortnight, here is a quiz on famous mayors of cities

Srinivasan Ramani

QUESTION 1

What unique and heroic distinction marks Madhu Kinnar's victory in the mayoral elections in Raigarh, Chhattisgarh in 2015?

QUESTION 2

Name this freedom fighter who became the first mayor of the Calcutta Municipal Corporation in 1924. What was he also popularly known as?

QUESTION 3

Another freedom fighter, she played a vital role in the Quit India movement and later became the first elected mayor of Delhi. Name her.

QUESTION 4

This person, nominated to the post of Mayor in Madras (currently Chennai) in 1957 was also instrumental in a scheme on mid-day meals for children studying in corporation schools. Name her.

QUESTION 5

Famous (or notorious depending on peoples' point of view) for introducing a congestion charge in London, this mayor is also known for his quirky "war on pigeons" in Trafalgar Square. Name him.

Visual question:
Identify this current head of government of a country who earlier served as the mayor of its capital city. Name the country as well.

Questions and Answers to the October 20 edition of the daily quiz: 1. The year in which World Statistics Day was first observed. **Ans: 2010; it is observed every five years**
2. The motto of this year's World Statistics Day. **Ans: 'Driving change with quality statistics and data for everyone'**
3. Number of member states which make up the United Nations. **Ans: 193 member states**
4. The fourth most widely practised religion in the world. **Ans: Buddhism**
5. This is the largest of all Orders, constituting 25% of all known animal species. **Ans: The insect Order Coleoptera**
6. The world's largest company by market cap estimated to be in excess of $4.5 trillion. **Ans: Nvidia**
Visual: Name this scientist. **Ans: Prof. P.C. Mahalanobis**
Early Birds: Patrick Vijayan| Lalchand Bhutani| Anil Warrier| Deepak Gogiya| Anubhav Gupta

Word of the day

Excoriate:
express strong disapproval of; tear or wear off the skin or make sore by abrading

Synonyms: condemn, decry, reprobate

Usage: *The candidates have excoriated each other throughout the campaign.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/excoriatepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ɪkˈskɔɹiˌeɪt/, /ɪkˈskoʊɹiˌeɪt/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Khandre seeks report on staff negligence

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre has directed the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) to submit a report on the allegations of negligence by veterinarians and staff responsible for the care of elephants at the Sakrebailu Elephant Camp, near Shivamogga.

The Minister, in a letter on Tuesday, stated that he learnt through the media that a 35-year-old elephant, named Balanna, had been suffering from an infection allegedly due to the negligence of its caretakers and directed to take immediate measures.

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PRERNA CONSULTANCY: # 203/207, R.P. ROAD, MUMBAI - 421 301. B0783/MUM/PART/1000+/5/9213/2016-18.05.2026

GENERAL

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OPPORTUNITY AT NAGALAND INSTITUTE OF TRANSFORMATION

UNDP India and Planning & Transformation Department, Government of Nagaland have entered into a partnership to provide technical support to the **Nagaland Institute of Transformation (NIoT)** under **State Support Mission. Under this partnership, UNDP India** has engaged **Strategic Alliance Management Services (SAMS)** to recruit **11 technical experts** to steer the development strategies in the State. Selected candidate will play a key role in providing policy advocacy and recommendations to NIoT.

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Scan to know more

Corporal punishment cases come to light

Principal, teachers assault class five student of a private school at Sunkadakatte with PVC pipe, lock him up in a room for being absent for 2 days

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA/BENGALURU

Two nine-year-old boys in different parts of the State – one in Bengaluru and the other in Chitradurga – were allegedly subjected to corporal punishment that have belatedly come to light.

In Chitradurga district, a student of a residential school run by Sri Guru Tipperudraswamy temple at Naykanahatti in Challakere taluk faced brutal assault a few months ago for calling up his home without informing the teacher. In a video clip of the incident, the teacher is seen kicking the student again and again, even as the boy is seen apologising repeatedly. The Sanskrit teacher, T. Veeresh, had been absconding after the video clip went viral on social media over the last two days.

A student of a residential school in Challakere taluk of Chitradurga district was brutally assaulted by his teacher a few months ago.
PHOTO FOR REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSE

Teacher held

The Chitradurga police on Tuesday arrested the teacher from Kalaburagi, based on a complaint filed by H. Gangadharappa, an executive officer of the temple. Deputy Commissioner T. Venkatesh has served a notice to the officer seeking reply for not informing the senior officers about the incident.

Bengaluru incident

In the case which occured in the city, a class five student of a private school at Sunkadakatte was allegedly assaulted by the principal and other teachers with a PVC pipe before being locked up in a room for being absent for two days.

The alleged incident occurred on October 14. A complaint was filed the next day by Divya Shankar, the mother of the boy, following which an FIR was registered against the principal and two teachers.

According to the complaint, the victim has been a student of St. Mary's public school for the past three years.

The accused – principal Rakesh Kumar, teacher Chandrika, and secretary of the school and teacher Vijay Kumar – were reportedly upset about the victim being absent for two days and assaulted him for "disciplining" him.

The accused also allegedly locked up the student alone in a room for several hours.

The parents noticed the boy's bruises and learnt about the incident after an inquiry.

When questioned, the school management reportedly justified their act. The police have issued notices to the accused to appear before them for questioning.

Gang of four held for looting shop

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Sadashivanagar police arrested a gang of four for allegedly stealing cash and valuables from a shop recently.

Based on a complaint filed at the Sadashivanagar police station by the owner of the Nandini milk parlour located on Temple Road, Ashwathnagar, the police analysed footage from 50 CCTV cameras to zero in on the gang. The complainant stated that he found the shop's door partially open in the morning. He discovered that ₹6,500 in the cash box was stolen. The locks of two adjacent grocery shops were also broken, but no items or money were taken from those shops. During the investigation, the police explored multiple leads and apprehended the four suspects near Bandikalamma temple in Guttahalli.

The police seized an autorickshaw used in the crime and ₹15,500 in cash from the accused. The accused have been produced before the court, which remanded them to judicial custody.

Biocon founder Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw visits Shivakumar's residence in city

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In what seems to be a sign of truce after a long war of words, industrialist and Biocon founder Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw visited Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar at his residence in Sadashiva Nagar on Tuesday.

"It was a pleasure to meet Ms. @kiranshaw, entrepreneur and Founder of Biocon, at my residence today. We had an engaging discussion on Bengaluru's growth, innovation, and the path ahead for Karnataka's growth story," said Mr. Shivakumar on X.

The meeting has turned heads given that it comes after a bitter exchange between Ms. Shaw and Mr. Shivakumar after the former's criticism on the poor state of infrastructure in Bengaluru.

Biocon founder Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw with Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar at his residence in Bengaluru on Tuesday.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Social media sparring

The exchange started with Ms. Shaw, on Monday, criticising the abysmal infrastructure in the city on X.

"I had an overseas business visitor to Biocon Park who said 'Why are the roads so bad and why is there so much garbage around? Doesn't the Govt want to support investment? I have just come from China and can't understand why India can't get its act together especially when the winds are favourable?'" it read. The comment drew sharp reactions from several Ministers, including IT-BT Minister Priyank Kharge, and Industries Minister M.B. Patil. The Deputy Chief Minister, however, took a conciliatory tone urging to "build the city together, instead of tearing it down."

The conversation soon turned political with several Congress functionaries questioning Ms. Shaw over her silence on 'GST issues.'

Ms. Shaw also met Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

Mandya district tops State in survey

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

By covering 98.03% of its population, Mandya tops Karnataka in the ongoing Social and Educational Survey, said Kumar, Deputy Commissioner of the district.

In a statement here on Tuesday, Mr. Kumar said that so far, the exercise covered 18,29,582 people of the projected population of 18,66,350 in Mandya.

During the exercise, which began on September 22, a total of 5.10 lakh families in the district had been surveyed, the statement said.

The survey is part of a comprehensive data collection exercise on the social, educational, and economic conditions of all communities and castes across Karnataka. "It is a matter of great pride that Mandya has secured the first position in the State for the successful completion of this large-scale survey," Mr. Kumar said in the statement, while acknowledging the efforts of individuals who worked tirelessly to ensure the success of the exercise.

Footfall rises at Hasanamba temple

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

The queue in front of the Hasanamba temple in Hassan is getting longer with only one day left for the devotees to have 'darshan' of the deity. Visitors will be able to get a glimpse of the deity till 7 p.m. on Wednesday. The temple will be closed on Thursday after traditional rituals.

The temple was opened on October 9. The festival attracts a large number of devotees from different parts of the State and outside as the temple is open only during the festival. Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda, who is also the Minister in charge of Hassan district, said on Tuesday that over 23 lakh people visited the temple since October 10, the day from when the devotees were allowed to enter.

Timings
BENGALURU

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 22	
RISE	06:11 SET 17:57
RISE	06:37 SET 18:23
THURSDAY, OCT. 23	
RISE	06:11 SET 17:57
RISE	07:26 SET 19:04
FRIDAY, OCT. 24	
RISE	06:11 SET 17:56
RISE	08:17 SET 19:48

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	29	24
Mysuru	28	20
Bengaluru	26	21

Bengaluru Today
27°C The weather will be comfortable. Night will be pleasant. Few spells of moderate to heavy rain and thundershower will occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be slight warm. Spell of light to moderate rain and thundershower to occur.

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THE HINDU
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Advertisement No: JMC/HR-25/PC/181/1653 **Dated: 21.10.2025**

Walk in Interview
For the post of
Procurement Consultant on Full Time Retainership Basis

Jharkhand Medical & Health Infrastructure Development & Procurement Corporation Ltd. (JMHIDPCL) was established in 2013 at Ranchi under the aegis of Department of Health, Medical Education and Family Welfare, Govt. of Jharkhand and was entrusted with the function of Procurement of Medicines, Surgical Goods, Medical Equipment, Instruments and others is in search of Procurement Consultant (Full Time) on Retainership basis on the following qualification, experience and remuneration.

Essential Qualification	MBA from a recognized University.
Preferable Qualification	LLB from a recognized University.
Experience	20 Years' experience in Govt. / Semi Govt. / Quasi Govt./ Public undertaking / Govt. Autonomous Body Out of that at least 8 years' experience in Govt. Health Sector dealt with the procurement of Drugs, Surgicals, Medical Equipments/ Instruments and others.
Remuneration	Rs. 35,000/- (Consolidated payable per month)
Date of Interview	31.10.2025 at 11:00 AM in JMHIDPCL Office.
Instruction	Candidates who are qualifying the essential qualifications and experience needs only to appear for Walk-in-Interview alongwith the curriculum vitae supported by the original certificates.
Period of Retainership	One year and after that extendable on performance basis.

PR 364629 Jharkhand Medical & Health Infrastructure Dev & Procurement Corp Ltd(25-26).D
Sd/- Managing Director,JMHIDPCL

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE, HUMAN SPACE FLIGHT CENTRE (HSFC)
Construction & Maintenance Group (CMG)
Opposite ISRO Guest House, Devanahalli, Karnataka-562164 Ph:080-29916308

E-TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of the President of India, Online Item rate tenders are invited through e-tendering for the following works:

Sr. No.	Title of work and NIT no.	Estimated Cost put to tender	Period of Completion	Period during which the tender document can be downloaded	Due date and time of submission	Date of tender Opening	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)
01	Providing chain-link fencing around the DG sets at HSFC, Devanahalli (Civil work) **HSFC/CMG/MM/C/158/2025-26, Dt: 21.10.2025**	₹15.55 Lakhs	02 Months	From 22.10.2025 (11.00 hrs) to 02.11.2025 (23.30 hrs)	04.11.2025 up to 11.00 hrs	04.11.2025 up to 11.30 hrs	₹31,100/-
02	Extension of change over panel (COP) 1 & 2 and relocation of 2 nos APFC panel in 11/0.433kV Substation at HSFC, Devanahalli. **HSFC/CMG/MM/E/159/2025-26, Dt: 21.10.2025**	₹7.92 Lakhs	04 Months				₹15,840/-
03	Providing aluminium/glass partition works in Samarthan, Security building and other miscellaneous works at HSFC, Devanahalli **HSFC/CMG/MM/C/160/2025-26, Dt: 21.10.2025**	₹11.35 Lakhs	03 Months				₹22,700/-

Tender documents can be downloaded from website **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO** by registering with tender wizard and paying tender processing fee. The procedure for vendor registration is displayed in the above website. For eligibility criteria and other details, Interested tenderers may please refer Detailed bilingual (Hindi-English) Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) from website **www.isro.gov.in** For further details and Purchase of tender documents visit **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO.**

Sd/- Head CMD, CMG, HSFC

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Application Notification No. 210/Halts/GJT Halt/2025/SBC Division
Dated : 13.10.2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites sealed applications for appointment of Halt Agent from educated unemployed persons residing in and around the **Janaghatta (GJT) Train Halt Station** for issuing Unreserved Tickets on Commission basis for a period of five (05) years or till up-gradation of the station whichever is earlier.

Sl.No.	Station	Section	To Start functioning from
1	Janaghatta (GJT)	Yelahanka	Date will be notified by the administration

Date and Time of submission of application: From 10:00 Hrs. to 16:00 Hrs. of 10.11.2025
Date and Time of opening of application: 16:05 Hrs. of 10.11.2025

For details log on: www.swr.indianrailways.gov.in

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager
Bengaluru
PUB/562/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26

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JHARKHAND URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED
(A Government of Jharkhand Undertaking)
JUIDCO Bhawan, Kutchery Chowk, Ranchi-834001
E-Mail - pdt.juidco@gmail.com, juidcolimited@gmail.com
CIN: U45200JH2013SGC001752

Name of Work: Request for Pre-Qualification for Empanelment of Agency for Operation Maintenance of LED Street Lights in Urban Local Bodies of Jharkhand
Ref PR No.: 363006
Tender ID: 2025_UDD_105261_1
NIT No.: JUIDCO/NIT/EMP/OnM/SL/2025-665

CORRIGENDUM 1

Sl. No.	Clause No.	As per RFP	As per Corrigendum
1	Notice Inviting Tender 5. Last Date & Time of Bid Submission	21.10.2025; 1700 Hrs.	29.10.2025; 1700 Hrs.
2	Notice Inviting Tender 6. Date & Time of Bid Opening	24.10.2025; 1700 Hrs	30.10.2025; 1700 Hrs

Website: https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in/
Sd/-
(B K Roy)
Project Director (Technical)
PR 364584 (Urban Development) 25-26 (D)

ಮೈಸೂರು ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಕಾಲೇಜು ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಸ್ವಾಯತ್ತ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ)
ಇರ್ವಿನ್ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು–570 001
ದೂರವಾಣಿ+91–0821–2520512 ಕಛೇರಿ 2520803 (ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್)
Website: www.mmcri/karnataka.gov.in
E-mail: mmcrimysore@yahoo.com
No. Out Source/ 58/2025-26 Date: 04.10.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Tender has been invited as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements Act 1999 for providing of Manpower services on out-source basis for the various Technicians and Group 'D' vacant posts at Trauma Care Senter & Supar Speciality Hospital, Mysuru and associated hospitals. The Tender documents may be downloaded from E-procurement website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from **18.10.2025** and last date for submission of Tenders through E-procurement website is **17.11.2025** upto 5.00 PM. Those tenders which are not submitted with E.M.D. will be rejected.

If, the last date for submission of Tender treated as holiday, the next working day will be considered as last date. No Notification in this regard will be announced.

Sd/-Director and Dean, Mysore Medical College and Research Institute, Mysuru
DIPR/DDMYS/1113/KSMCA/599/2025-26

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
GSU/ELECTRICAL WORK (G)

CPM, Gati Shakti, Central Railway, Solapur on behalf of the president of India Invites E-tender from the reputed firms/Contractor for the following work. **E-Tender Notice No: 07-2025-GSU-Elect-G, Date: 17.10.2025. Name of work**: Electrical General service work for the **(A)** Provision of Parcel and Goods Shed related facilities at (i) Solapur: Provision of CGS Office & parcel office (ii) Kalburgi: Provision of parcel office (iii) Kurduwadi: Provision of Hamal room and CGS office (iv) Wadi: Provision of Parcel office & store room (v) Pandharpur: Provision of Hamal Room. **(B)** Wadi - Resurfacing of PF 1/2 and 3/4 of Wadi station and other improvement works. **Approximate cost of work**: Rs.1,70,95,922.48. **Earnest Money**: Rs. 2,35,500/-. **Completion period of the work**: 12 (Twelve)Months. **Maintenance Period**: 12 (Twelve) months from the date of commissioning / taking over of the installation. **Last Date and time for submission for tender on www.ireps.gov.in website**: 10.11.2025 up to 15:00 hrs. **Date and time of opening of tender on www.ireps.gov.in**: 10.11.2025 after 15:30 hrs. **Website particulars**: **www.ireps.gov.in Note**: The Prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website frequently before the date of closing of tender to note any change/corrigendum issued for this tender website : **www.ireps.gov.in**

Chief Project Manager (GSU), Central Railway, Solapur.
DE/Sur-63
असुरक्षित तथा अनाधिकृत रूप से रेल लाइन के पास कार्य करना दंडनीय अपराध है

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA AT BENGALURU
NOTICE TO THE RESPONDENTS NO.3 AND 4 VIDE COURT ORDER 22.09.2025
WRIT PETITION No. 13203/2025
(GM-RES)

SRI G C NARASIMHA SWAMY S/o C.R. Govinda, Aged about 67 years, R/o No. 1036, 3rd Cross, 1st Block, Anand Nagar, R.T. Nagar, Bangalore-560032. **...PETITIONERS**

VS

THE JOINT REGISTRAR OF CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES AND CHIT FUNDS BANGALORE ZONE, Sahakara Soudha, No. 146, 3rd Floor, 3rd Main Road, 8th Cross, Margosa Road, Malleshwaram, Bangalore-560003. & OTHERS. **...RESPONDENTS**

TO, RESPONDENT No. 3 & 4

3. MR. H. SHIVARAJ S/o Narasimaiaha, Aged about major, M/s Sree Infoctech, No. 35, 31st Cross, ITI Layout, J.P. Nagar, 1st Phase, Bangalore-560078.

4. SRI. GOPINATH RAO S/o Janardhan Rao, Aged about major, M/s Gopi Enterprises, No. 35, 31st Cross, ITI Layout, J.P. Nagar, 1st Phase, Bangalore-560078.

Whereas the above named petitioner praying this Court to and also on petition filed under Articles 226 & 227 of the Constitution of India, praying to:

a. Issue a Writ of Certiorari quashing the impugned order dated 27.06.2022 passed in Dispute No. JRB/CFS/No. 1003/2006-2007 by the 1st respondent vide Annexure G.

Notice is hereby given to you to appear in this Court either in person or through counsel duly instructed or through someone authorised by law, to act for you in the above Writ Petition **on 14.11.2025 at 10.30 A.M.** in case you intend to contest the Writ Petition. If you fail to appear, the same will be dealt with, heard and decided in your absence.

Issued under my hand and the seal of this Court, on this Monday the 22nd day of September 2025.

BY ORDER OF THE COURT
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
ENGINEERING WORKS

Divisional Railway Manager (Works), Central Railway, Solapur on Behalf of President of India, invites e-tender from the reputed firms/contractor for the following works. **Sr. No.:1. Tender Notice No.: 37-2025-SrDENC, Date: 20.10.2025. Name of Work**: Construction of quarter in lieu of old quarters at KWV (Type-III 04), MLM (type-II 04 units) under ADEN/ KWV/BG Sub Division. **Approximate Cost of the work**: Rs.1,73,26,161.59. **Earnest Money**: Rs. 236600/-. **Completion period of the work**: 06 Months. **Maintenance Period**: 24 Months. **Sr. No.:2. Tender Notice No.: 38-2025-SrDENC, Date: 20.10.2025. Name of Work**: Construction of New quarters at LUR (Type-III 04), OSA (type-11 04 units) & DKY(Type-II 02 units) under ADEN/LUR. **Approximate Cost of the work**: Rs. 2,14,14,233.31. **Earnest Money**: Rs. 257100/-. **Completion period of the work**: 06 Months. **Maintenance Period**: 24 Months. **Sr. No.:3. Tender Notice No.: 39-2025-SrDENC, Date: 20.10.2025. Name of Work**: Miscellaneous P.way Work Under SSE/P.way/MRJ under ADEN/PVR Sub-division for a period of two years. **Approximate Cost of the work**: Rs. 2,35,08,474.07. **Earnest Money**: Rs. 2,67,600/-. **Completion period of the work**: 24 Months. **Maintenance Period**: NA. **Last date & Time of uploading quoted tender on www.ireps.gov.in website**: 10.11.2025 upto 15:00 hrs. **Date & Time of Opening of tender on www.ireps.gov.in**: 10.11.2025 at 15:30 hrs. **The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website frequently before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/ corrigenda issued for this tender. Website: www.ireps.gov.in**

Divisional Railway Manager (Works), Central Railway, Solapur
DE/Sur-64
असुरक्षित तथा अनाधिकृत रूप से रेल लाइन के पास कार्य करना दंडनीय अपराध है

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No.: B/TRD.2025-26/20
Dated 16.10.2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Item of work	Approx. Value
[i] OHE modifications in connection with proposed capacity enhancement of SGT Wagon depot to meet demand of freight loading of 3000 MT target by 2027. **[ii]** OHE modifications in connection with proposed construction of new IOH Shed for NMG Maintenance at SGT yard. **[iii]** Construction of new pitline in AC Loco Trip Shed at SGT-TRD works.	**Rs. 5,26,82,274.76/-**

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 05.11.2025

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/Traction Distribution/Bengaluru
PUB/570/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26

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South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that, my clients have agreed to purchase the Schedule property from its owners: (1)**Sri.M.M.ANAND RAM** S/o late M.L.Manjanath Shetty, (2) **Sri.MYSORE MANJANATHASETTY PANDURANGA** S/o late M.L.Manjanath Shetty, (3)**Sri.M.M.PARTHA SARATHI** S/o late M.L.Manjanath Shetty; (4)**Sri.MYSORE SAMPATHKUMAR SHIVAKUMAR** S/o late M.M.Sampath Kumar and his two sisters **Smt.USHA RANI CHILKEPALLY** & **Smt.M.S.ASHA**; and (5)**Sri.MAHESH LACHIA MANJANATHA** S/o late M.Lachia Setty and his sister **Smt.K.S.ANURADHA**.

Apart from the said owners, if any other person/s have any manner of claim or interest or demand over the Schedule property or any part thereof by way of sale, lease, mortgage, gift, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, pre-emption or otherwise howsoever, they are hereby requested to file their objection/s (along with the photocopies of the documents on which they are relying), with the undersigned within **14 days** from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my clients.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the vacant immovable property bearing Municipal No.185 (PID No.61-35-185, New EPID No.2507381096) and Municipal No.59 (PID No.61-11-59, New EPID No.2507391989), together measuring on the East 100ft; on the West 90ft; on the North 115ft; and on the South 100ft, in all measuring 10,212.5 Sq.ft, situated at Rasthriya Vidyalaya Road and Mavalli Main Road, Bangalore and bounded on:

East by : Mavalli Main Road/Susheela Road;
West by : Rasthriya Vidyalaya Road;
North by : Property bearing No.182; and
South by : Property of Raghavendra.

Sd/- **S.F. GOUTAM CHAND**, Advocate, **GOUTAM ASSOCIATES,** No.60, 2nd Floor, Old Kanakapura Road, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru - 560004.

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, GEETA Devi w/o Service number–14661609F, Rank–HAV, Name – Umashankar singh residing at Baruntar–vill, Surajpura–po, Rohtas–dist, Bihar, pin–802221. I have changed my name from Geeta Devi to Gita Kumari vide affidavit dated 15–10–2025 before notary A.R Muneer Ahmed Bangalore

I, DHARMENDRA Ramesha s/o Dyavarahalli Govindappa Ramesh, r/o: No.58, Tarahunase, Blr–562157. Have changed my name as Dyavarahalli Ramesh Dharmendra. vide affidavit on 16.10.25

I, RAMESHA s/o Dyavarahalli Naythayreddy Govindappa, r/o: No.58, Tarahunase, Blr–562157. Have changed my name as Dyavarahalli Govindappa Ramesh. vide affidavit on 16.10.25

ANNOUNCEMENTS

I, SRINIVASA Reddy V residing at No. 54, Kanva Nagar, DanojiPalya, Nelamangala, Bangalore Rural District-562123 hereby declare that in some documents my name is mentioned as Srinivasa Reddy instead of Srinivasa Reddy V, My fathers name is mentioned as Venkataramana Reddy instead of Venkatarama Reddy my spouse name is mentioned as Manaka instead of Menaka.S and my date of birth is mentioned as 04-12-1969 instead of 04-07-1967. I hereby further declare that my name is Srinivasa Reddy V, my spouse name is Menaka.S and my date of birth is 04-07-1967 vide affidavit dated 17.10.2025 before Notary R. Lakshminarayana, Nelamangala.

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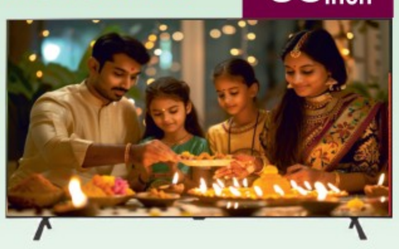
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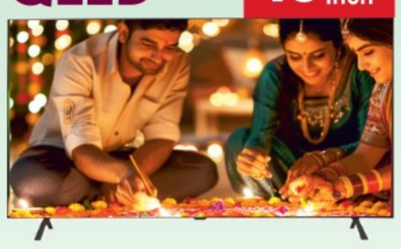
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BIDADI — Kenchanguppe Gate, Opp. HDFC Bank, Bangalore - Mysore Highway. Ph : 7702203254
KONANAKUNTE — Opp. to Soudhamini Chowltry, Nxt to Police Station Ph :9731306531
BEGUR — # 80, Hongasandra, Opp. Royal Concorde School, Bangalore. Ph. : 080- 41489467 / 41625433, Mob : 9731306564
R T NAGAR — Opp. Police Station 080-23559977 / 9731307264
HOSKOTE — Next to Govt. Womens College. Ph: 9731306767
HENNUR MAIN ROAD — Diagonally Opp. to D'Mart. Ph : 48651500, 9731306571
UTTARAHALLI — Uttarahalli Main Road Near HDFC Bank. 080-49587474 Ph : 9731306547
WHITEFIELD — Ramagondanahalli, Next to Udupi Delicacy Hotel. Ph: 080-40984677 9513499851
YELAHANKA — New Town, Sharavathi Road, Next to SBI Bank. Ph: 9731306685
HEBBAGODI — Attibeli Hobli, Near Church, Opp. Biacon. Ph: 27849941 9731307257
HEGGANAHALLI — Peenya 2nd Stage, Vishwaneedum PO, Main Road. Ph: 9591997257, 080-28366565 / 66
MAHADEVPURA — Whitefield Main Road, Next to Brand Factory Close to Phoenix Marketcity. Ph : 080-48148975, 9148151731
KENGERI — 80Ft. Rd., Near Shirke Apts., Ph: 9731306634
VIJAYANAGAR — MC Layout, Chord Rd., Near Metro Station. Ph: 9731306631
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MATHIKERE — Bombay Dyeing Road Ph : 080-40974968 9731306641
HSR LAYOUT — 1st Sector, Dia. Opp to ICICI Bank Ph : 9731306550
BANASHANKARI — Opposite to Big Bazar Ph : 080-26691262 9731306606
JAYANAGAR — 40th Cross, 9th Main Ph : 080-26541050/51 9731306617
CHANDRA LAYOUT — Near Water Tank. 9731306558, 080-41503359
NAGARBHAVI — 6th Block, 2nd Stage, Opp. BDA Complex. Ph: 9731306616
CHANNASANDRA — Uttarahalli Main Road, Near RNSIT. Ph: 28613065 9731306766
THANISANDRA — King Space Meadows Apt., Nr. Railway Track Underpass Ph : 9731306763
SUNKADAKATTE — Janapriya Commercial Complex, Magadi Road, Ph : 080-23288940 / 942 9686680764
RAJAJINAGAR — Opp. Diacon Hospital 080-23134692 Ph : 9731306570
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RAMMURTHY NAGAR — Opp. MORE. Ph:8861007307 080-41638612 / 13
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LG SHOPPE RAJAJINAGAR — Ph : 9731306671
LG SHOPPE RAJARAJESHWARI NAGAR — Ph: 9591997261
PEENYA T-DASARAHALLI — Santosh Enclave, Land Mark Old Reliance Bldg. Ph: 9731306684 / 9731306572 080-28393199 / 28394199

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A BG-BGE

After 'extorting money', Modi is now calling GST reduction a 'Deepavali gift': Siddaramaiah

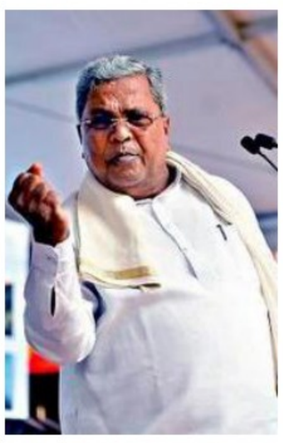
Chief Minister says people of Karnataka have lost ₹15,000 crore owing to GST over eight years

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

After "extorting money" from the people for eight years under the old GST system, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is now patting himself, calling GST reduction a "Deepavali gift," Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said on Tuesday.

People of Karnataka have lost ₹15,000 crore owing to GST over eight years and the development of Bengaluru is being undertaken at a cost of ₹1.2 lakh crore without any financial support from the Centre, he said.

Mr. Siddaramaiah also criticised the BJP over the Bengaluru metro project. "We are the ones who are paying 87% of the money for the metro. But the BJP is lying by saying that the metro is a Central project. Why are you voting for such fake people?," he asked.



Chief Minister Siddaramaiah speaking at the launch of white-topping and road development works in Bengaluru on Tuesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

He further questioned MPs from the city. "Has MP P.C. Mohan spoken on your behalf in Parliament? MP Tejasvi Surya - I call him Amavasya Surya. Has he spoken about the injustice and betrayal being done to the State till today? Have Ministers Shobha Karandlaje and H.D. Kumaraswamy spoken even for a single day about the betrayal of the State by the Modi government?"

The Chief Minister remarked that when the BJP was in power, not a single new road was built. He also took a dig at BJP leaders, arguing that no one, including R. Ashok and B.Y. Vijayendra had any say of their own and have to follow the diktats of the RSS.

Meanwhile, hitting out at Mr. Siddaramaiah for accusing the Centre of meting out injustice to Karnataka and trying to show the BJP-JD(S) MPs in a poor light by questioning their silence in the Lok Sabha, the BJP urged the Chief Minister to first list his own achievements since he took over.

"Before pointing the finger at the Centre, let the Chief Minister and his ministerial colleagues tell the people of the State if they have taken any new schemes for them in the last two-and-a-half years," Mr. Vijayendra told presspersons in Bengaluru.

"Except chanting the names of guarantee schemes, they have done nothing for the development of the State. Their only achievement is converting Karnataka into an ATM for the Congress high command," he alleged.

BJP-JD(S) to form coordination panels for GBA area and rest of Karnataka

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

With elections to the Greater Bengaluru Authority on the horizon, the BJP-JD (S) coalition partners have decided to set up separate coordination committees for the GBA region and Karnataka for effectively tackling the government over various issues.

A decision to this effect was taken after a team of BJP leaders led by State president B.Y. Vijayendra held a meeting with JD(S) leader and Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy in Bengaluru on Tuesday.

After the meeting, Mr. Vijayendra told presspersons that the committees will be formed in eight to 10 days.

The committee members will be finalised after discussions with BJP party leaders, while Mr. Kumaraswamy has agreed to provide a list of names of JD(S) leaders, Mr. Vijayendra said.

Mr. Kumaraswamy suggested the formation of separate committees for Bengaluru in the wake of fast-approaching elections to the GBA, he added.

The leaders are learnt to have agreed to work in close coordination for the GBA elections and also elections that are slated to be held for Council seats in 2026.

The coalition leaders also reportedly decided to evolve strategies to bring pressure on the government both within the legislature and outside on various issues.

Sources said that the subjects that came for discussion included the targeting of RSS by the Congress government, spat between government representatives and industrialists over Bengaluru's infrastructure woes, controversy over Bidadi integrated township, and crumbling infrastructure in Bengaluru.

BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra meeting Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy and JD(S) youth president Nikhil Kumaraswamy in Bengaluru on Tuesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Tension among cadre

On the reported tension and a lack of trust between workers as well as local leaders of the two coalition partners, the leaders have reportedly decided to make efforts to ensure a smooth relationship at the cadre level.

Meanwhile, Mr. Vijayendra alleged that Ministers were responding in an arrogant manner to concerns raised by industry captains on the infrastructure woes of Bengaluru. His father and then Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa had welcomed criticism and suggestion from the industry captains. "Mr. Yediyurappa had invited industry leader Mohandas Pai to his home after Mr. Pai publicly raised some concerns," Mr. Vijayendra noted.

Phone tapping: CAT sets aside departmental enquiry proceedings against Alok Kumar

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) has set aside the charge memo, issued by the State government this May on the orders of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, to senior IPS officer Alok Kumar. This is in connection with the 2019 case of leaked audio clip of lawfully intercepted phone calls. Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai in 2023 found it not necessary to hold any departmental proceedings.

The "timing of the charge memo legitimately invites doubt about the propriety of exercise" of process of conducting departmental enquiry as it was revived two years after previous the CM's note against the enquiry, and just days before Mr. Kumar's scheduled promotion to the rank of Director-General of Police by the end of May, 2025, said CAT's chairperson Ranjit More in his judgment delivered on October 14.

The issue of legality of the issuance of the charge memo was referred to the chairperson, as a Division Bench of the tribunal in Bengaluru on September 4 passed a divergent verdict, in which B.K. Shrivastava (member-judicial) had set aside the charge memo and Santosh Mehra (member-administrative) had upheld it.

The Chief Secretary, based on the orders of Mr. Siddaramaiah, on May 9 had issued notice along with the charge memo to Mr. Kumar under Rule 8 (4) of the All-India Services (Discipline and Appeals) Rules, 1969. Mr. Kumar, who is presently an Additional Director-General of Police (Training), had challenged this before the CAT.

Agreeing with Mr. Shrivastava's findings, the chairperson held that the issue of need for conducting departmental enquiry against Mr. Kumar and another IPS officer Bhaskar Rao (now retired) stood concluded in the decision taken on May 9, 2023, by the then Chief Minister, who had said, "...hence there is no need to conduct disciplinary enquiry against Mr. Alok Kumar, IPS, issue orders accordingly."

The CAT further found that Mr. Siddaramaiah ordered for the department enquiry against Mr. Kumar on the file, which was put up for his consent on July 26, 2024, for merely intimating the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) about the then CM's May 9, 2023, decision that "there was no need to hold any departmental enquiry on the issue."

The CBI, which had conducted a probe into allegation of leaked audio-clip of lawfully intercepted phone calls, had filed "closure report" before a special court in 2021 as it could not establish the allegation that official audio-clip was leaked by either Mr. Kumar or Mr. Rao. However, CBI wrote to the State government recommending departmental enquiry against them.

Later, the CBI, on order of a special court, which refused to accept closure report, conducted further probe and submitted "closure report" again as it could not get any evidence against the police officers, and the special court in February 2024 accepted the closure report.

Also, the CBI in 2024 sent a reminder to the State government on departmental enquiry as it had not received any communication for its 2021 letter, and it was in this regard the file was put up before Mr. Siddaramaiah in July, 2024, for specifically communicating the 2023 decision of the then Chief Minister to the CBI.

Meanwhile, Mr. Siddaramaiah, in his May 6, 2025, note, nealry 10 months after the file was placed before him, ordered departmental enquiry against Mr. Kumar by stating that he had "reconsidered 2023 decision for dropping the enquiry."

However, the CAT found fault in this decision as the file put up before him was not for reviewing or reconsidering the 2023 decision, but for mere approval to communicate to the CBI about the 2023 decision.

Fund raising: Priyank shares old video clip to hit out at BJP

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Launching a counter-attack at BJP MP B.Y. Raghavendra, who accused the Congress Ministers of "extorting" officials in Karnataka to raise funds for Congress campaign in the Bihar polls, IT/BT and RDPR Minister Priyank Kharge on Tuesday shared an old video clip showing a conversation between the late BJP leader Ananth Kumar with veteran leader B.S. Yediyurappa in which both are purportedly discussing fund raising issues.

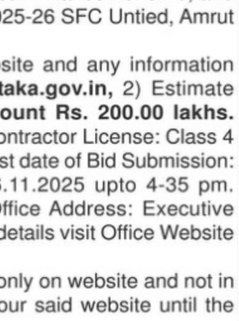
In a social media post, Mr. Kharge alleged that both the BJP leaders had then discussed about payment of ₹1,800 crore to the party high command. "Have the BJP leaders forgotten now about this clip in which Mr. Ananth Kumar and Mr. Yediyurappa discussed about paying ₹1,800 crore to the party high command and the contents of the video clip becoming public then?... It is better for Mr. Raghavendra to hear his father's conversation again and then decide on making comments on the Congress dispensation," Mr. Priyank Kharge remarked.

Taking exception to this, BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra told presspersons in Bengaluru that Mr. Priyank Kharge was talking without knowing the context in which the BJP leaders were talking.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

10th Anniversary
22nd October 2025
In loving memory of
Smt. V. Janaki



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OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR & EX-OFFICO DPO SSK BIDAR DISTRICT BIDAR
No: DPI/2025-26/SE0390 Date: 16/10/2025
SHORT TERM E-TENDER
PROVIDING MANPOWER FOR KGBV TYPE-1 SCHOOLS OF BIDAR DISTRICT
TENDER TIME TABLE:- 1) Tender Amount Rs: **50.52** lakhs, 2) Last Date & Time for submitting Tender Document on or before. **Date:06/11/2025 Time: 5.00 PM,** 3) Date & Time of opening of Technical Bid **Date:07/11/2025 Time:5.15 PM** 4) Date & Time of opening of Financial Bid **Date:10/11/2025 Time:11.30** AM, 5) E.M.D **Rs:50,000/-**, 6) Contact No: 9448999330, 7) Website address www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in
DDPI & EX-OFFICO DPO SSK BIDAR
DIPR/Bidar/213/KSMC&A/2025-26 **Bidar Dist.Bidar.**

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No: KMP/EE/TS-02/ 15th FC /SFC/Amrut 2.0/JHA/ 2025-26 Date : 18.10.2025.
KARNATAKA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PORTAL TENDER NOTIFICATION
No: 14/2025-26 & 1/Amrut2.0/2025-26
Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike, Kalaburagi invites 78 tenders as per KTPP Act, 1999 and Rules, 2000 through KPPP Portal 2.0 for works in KW- 1,2,3&4 Tender bid documents under 15th Finance 2020-21 to 2022-23 Savings Action plan,15th Finance 2023-24 & 2024-25 and 15th Finance 2021-22 NMPC Revised Action Plan, 15th Finance 2025-26, and 15th Finance 2022-23, 2023-24 & 2024-25 Savings Action plan, 2025-26 SFC Untied, Amrut 2.0 and Jal hi Amrit scheme for 15 Days Tender.
The bid documents can download from KPPP Portal website and any information related to these tenders will be updated on **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in,** 2) Estimate Sanction cost: **lowest amount Rs. 0.79 lakhs & highest amount Rs. 200.00 lakhs.** 3) EMD Value: Lowest Rs. 900.00 & Highest Rs. 2,55,000.00, 4) Contractor License: Class 4 & Above, 4) Pre Bid Meeting date: 03.11.2025 upto 11-00 am. 4) Last date of Bid Submission: 05.11.2025 upto 4-30 pm., 5) Technical Bid Opening date: 06.11.2025 upto 4-35 pm. 6) Financial Bid Opening date:10.11.2025 after 11:30 am. 7) Office Address: Executive Engineer, Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike, Kalaburagi. 8) For more details visit Office Website http://www.kalaburagicity.mrc.gov.in/
Note: All subsequent corrigendum/amendment shall be published only on website and not in press. Hence, tenderers are advised to always be in touch with our said website until the tender is finally opened.
Sd/- Executive Engineer,
DIPR/Kalaburagi/640/KSMC&A/2025-26 **Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike, Kalaburagi.**

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
KARNATAKA STATE HIGHWAYS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
KSHIP
Project Implementation Unit, KR Circle, Bengaluru-560 001
No.Industrial Corridor/Package-2/IE/2025-26/14 **Date: 21.10.2025**
SHORT TERM EOI NOTIFICATION
(on Karnataka Public Procurement Portal)
The Project Director, Project Implementation Unit, Karnataka State Highway Improvement Project, Bengaluru invites EOI for Selection of Independent Engineers for the project of Development of Road from Hoskote to Malur and Elevated Corridor upto Malur Industrial area for a length of 25.615 km in the state of Karnataka on PPP-DBFOMT-Hybrid Annuity Mode. Interested applicants can view and download the complete EOI document from Government of Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) on or after 23.10.2025. The tenderers may submit their EOIs for details in the table through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal of the Government of Karnataka.

Name of the Work: Expression of Interest for Selection of Independent Engineer services for the project of Construction of Four Lane Road from Hoskote to Malur and Elevated Corridor upto Malur Industrial area for a length of 25.615 km in the state of Karnataka on PPP-DBFOMT-Hybrid Annuity Mode	
Scope of work: The Independent engineer is required to (i) independently and on behalf of both KSHIP and the Concessionaire/lenders to review activities associated with design, design review, construction, operation and maintenance of the project to ensure compliance of requirements of Concession Agreement, (ii) report to KSHIP on the financial and technical aspects of the project, (iii) assist the parties to the Concession Agreement in arriving at an amicable settlement of disputes, if any	
Last date & time for tender queries/ clarifications in KPP Portal	**Date: 28.10.2025 upto Time: 16.00 Hours**
Date and Time of Pre-bid meeting	**Date: 29.10.2025 Time: 12:00 Hours (PIU, KSHIP, Bengaluru)**
Last date for submission of Bids	**Date: 10.11.2025 Time: 16:00 Hours**
Date and Time of opening of bids	**Date: 11.11.2025 Time: 16:00 Hours**

Please note that the Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any of the EOI without assigning any reason whatsoever. For more details about EOI invitation, may contact Office of the Project Director, Project Implementation Unit, K.R. Circle, Bengaluru during office hours & also through e-mail: **support@eprochelpdesk.com** and KPP portal helpline no: **+91-8046010000/+91-8068948777**.
**** Please note: henceforth, any changes in the schedule will not be published through News-papers and further changes will be updated only on Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in***
Sd/-
Project Director
KSHIP, Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/3381/CCL/2025-26

MAHATRANSCO Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd.
INVITATION FOR BID (IFB) (LOCAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING) SRM e-Tender No. T-2551/MSETCL/CO/ Projects/T/Pre-Tender (RFx No. 6000001428)
MSETCL invites offers by SRM e-tendering in TWO bid system (Techno-Commercial Bid and Price Bid) from the eligible registered bidders for the following work as detailed below.
"Establishment of 220/33 kV Vilholi GIS Substation, along with associated transmission line Dist. Nashik under Nashik Zone, MSETCL Maharashtra."
Interested bidders may obtain further information available on the website **https://srmetender.mahatransco.in**
The date of downloading of Bid documents available on the website is from **17.10.2025.**
Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Projects), MSETCL

MAHATRANSCO Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd.
INVITATION FOR BID (IFB) (LOCAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING) SRM e-Tender No. T-2552/MSETCL/CO/ Projects/Pre-Tender (RFx No. 6000001427)
MSETCL invites offers by SRM e-tendering in TWO bid system (Techno-Commercial Bid and Price Bid) from the eligible registered bidders for the following work as detailed below.
"Establishment of 132/33 kV Panchavati (MERI) GIS substation Dist. Nashik along with Construction of 132kV DCDC Mhasrul-Panchavati (MERI) line 4.322 km on turnkey basis under Nashik Zone."
Interested bidders may obtain further information available on the website **https://srmetender.mahatransco.in**
The date of downloading of Bid documents available on the website is from **17.10.2025.**
Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Projects), MSETCL

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पीएम श्री केंद्रीय विद्यालय, मंड्या -५७१४०२
PM SHRI KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA MANDYA - 571402
E-mail: kvmandya@gmail.com Website: https://mandya.kvs.ac.in
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जोन/Zone : South सीबीएसई संबद्धता संख्या/CBSE Affiliation Number: 800046 डीआईएसई कोड/DISE Code: 29220801904
Walk-In-Interview
A walk-in-interview will be organized for the post of Computer Instructor on 27.10.2025 at 09:30 AM in the Vidyalaya premises to prepare a panel of part-time contractual teacher for the academic year 2025-26.
For more details about eligibility, qualification, remuneration please refer to Vidyalaya website: https://mandya.kvs.ac.in. No TA & DA will be paid to the candidates for attending the interview.
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Government of Karnataka
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Haveri
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E-Tender Notification
This office letter No.27/EE/PREDn/HVR/PB/-1&2/Tender/2025-25/4057 Dated:18-10-2025
On 18-10-2025 through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Tender Notification has been issued for the following work Indent No. 17100/Call-2,19691,19699,19736(2A),19618(SC) 19626,19627,18148/Call-2,18300/Call-2,18667/Call-2 18161/ Call-2 Last date for submission of tender receipt is assined on Dated: 29-10-2025(upto 4:00PM). For further additional information, any changes & queries visit http://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in
Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
P.R.E.Division,Haveri

INBRIEF

CPI(M) will support changes to K-Rail project: Govindan

The Communist Party of India (Marxist) will support changes to the K-Rail project, with plans to shift it to a new route, party State secretary M.V. Govindan has said. Speaking to the media in Kannur on Tuesday, he clarified that a new approach was necessary since the Centre had not yet approved the existing proposal. Mr. Govindan said that financial constraints were not an issue and that the only hurdle was the lack of Central approval.

Kerala HC to watch film *Haal* in case challenging CBFC cuts

The Kerala High Court will watch the Malayalam film *Haal* here on Saturday in the wake of its makers challenging the Central Board of Film Certification's (CBFC) directive to delete a few scenes and dialogues. The film's director and producer had contented that many of the scenes that the CBFC demanded to be deleted were critical to the film's theme. The scenes included the one on consumption of beef biriyani and one in which the heroine uses Muslim religious attire.

Wild elephant causes major traffic hold-up in Athirappilly

Frequent elephant presence on the Athirappilly-Malakkappara in Kerala route has been causing concern among tourists and security forces. A wild elephant, locally called Kabali, entered the road near Ambalappara on Sunday and Monday, leading to traffic hold-ups for nearly five hours on both days. Tourists and motorists were forced to wait in fear while forest personnel tried to drive the elephant back to the jungle amid heavy rain.

Investigate conspiracy angle in Sabarimala gold theft: HC

Probe team submits interim report to court; HC suspects 'well-planned scheme' to pilfer gold; it directs SIT to seize minutes book of temple Board and schedules in-camera hearing for Nov. 5

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

Work under way to reinstall the gold-plated dwarapalakas at the Ayyappa temple in Sabarimala on Friday. LEJU KAMAL

The Kerala High Court on Tuesday directed the special investigation team (SIT), constituted to investigate the Sabarimala gold theft case, to probe 'criminal conspiracy' since 2019 and the subsequent entrusting of the gold-cladded Dwarapalaka idols to Unnikrishnan Potti, the key accused in the case.

A Division Bench of Justices Raja Vijayaraghavan V. and K.V. Jayakumar, during an in-camera trial held on Tuesday when the SIT submitted its interim probe report to the court, said it suspected a well-planned scheme to pilfer gold belonging to the Ayyappa temple.

'Manual ignored'

The court wondered how the Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) officials, while entrusting the idols and their frames to a person with dubious antecedents, ignored the instructions in a TDB manual, which stipulates that repairs of this nature shall be carried out within the temple premises itself.

The court observed that the probe has revealed that only a perfunctory mahazar was prepared (while handing over the idols to Mr. Potti) and that their particulars were not entered in the registers. Mr. Potti was also wrongfully permitted by the officials to retain approximately 409 grams of gold extracted from the gold-cladded side frames.

Further, the TDB in 2019 erroneously categorised the dwarapalakas as "copper plates" and handed them over to Mr. Potti for gold-plating at a Chennai-based firm.

The court also directed the SIT to seize the minutes book of the TDB immediately and keep it in safe custody.

The matter has been posted for in-camera hearing on November 5.

Ashok accuses Congress of distracting people from State government's failures

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly R. Ashok has alleged that the Congress government raised the issue of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh only to hide its failures in the last two-and-a-half years.

Mr. Ashok addressed a press conference in Hassan after visiting the Hasanamba temple on Monday. The State government had failed on all fronts; there had been no development since the party came to power, he said.

"We have been demanding that the government come out with a white paper on the amount they spent on development in comparison with what the BJP spent during its earlier tenure. The facts alone will reveal the truth," he said.

Commenting on the Social and Educational Survey, Mr. Ashok said that the government had failed to conduct it properly and that there had been no progress in many districts. "The Chief Minister said he would complete the survey within 15 days; however, he has now extended the deadline further," he remarked.

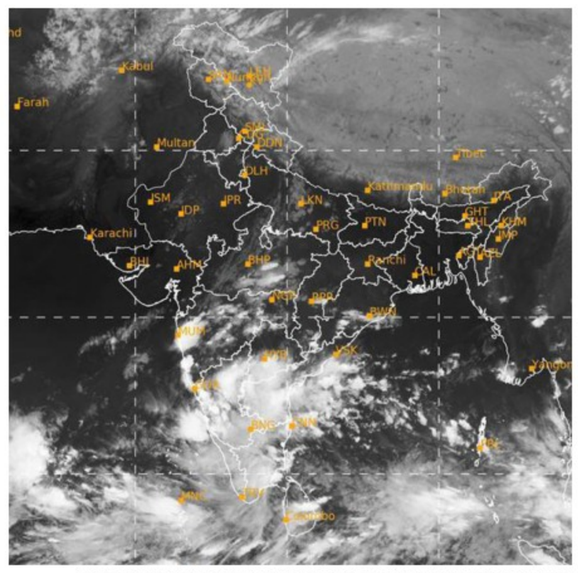
During the survey of his family, the BJP leader indicated that he responded only to questions related to caste and religion, stating that there was no need for the remaining questions.

Many industrialists in Bengaluru, he said, commented on the poor condition of the city's roads.

Further, he said that the issue of the RSS had been raised only to conceal failures. "When there is no restriction on holding *namaaz* on roads, blocking the traffic, why should only RSS activities be restricted," the Leader of the Opposition asked.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

Forecast for Wednesday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala, Mahe, Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over Uttarakhand, Odisha, Telangana, Maharashtra and Konkan & Goa

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	34.3	25.0	Kozhikode	19	30.5	25.4
Ahmedabad	—	36.0	23.6	Kurnool	—	31.6	24.4
Aizawl	0.2	30.0	20.9	Lucknow	—	33.7	21.6
Allahabad	—	34.2	23.1	Madurai	9.8	26.0	23.9
Bengaluru	9	26.2	20.8	Mangaluru	27.6	31.1	23.6
Bhopal	—	30.8	17.2	Mumbai	—	35.0	24.6
Bhubaneswar	—	33.5	24.1	Mysuru	—	28.0	20.2
Chandigarh	—	34.2	18.9	New Delhi	—	32.9	22.0
Chennai	43.3	27.6	25.2	Patna	—	34.2	24.8
Coimbatore	6.7	31.2	22.8	Port Blair	10	30.6	24.6
Dehradun	—	30.1	21.9	Puducherry	29	26.0	24.0
Gangtok	—	24.4	14.5	Pune	—	34.5	24.1
Goa	22	34.0	24.3	Raipur	—	31.8	22.7
Guwahati	—	33.3	22.7	Ranchi	—	31.8	20.4
Hubballi	—	31.0	23.0	Shillong	0.1	25.5	15.4
Hyderabad	—	30.6	23.4	Shimla	—	24.8	15.2
Imphal	—	30.4	21.5	Srinagar	—	24.0	8.0
Jaipur	—	32.9	21.1	Thiruvananthapuram	50	27.5	23.6
Kochi	25	27.6	25.0	Tiruchi	11.3	25.7	24.0
Kohima	—	27.0	16.0	Vijayawada	—	32.5	25.2
Kolkata	—	34.8	25.6	Visakhapatnam	1	32.4	26.2

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.42	..70	32	... 221	...216	
Bengaluru	.12	..34	83	... 115	...110	
Chennai	...2	2	31	... 193	...189	
Delhi	.45	..57	58	... 403	...360	
Hyderabad	.27	..29	54	... 146	...169	
Kolkata	.12	..21	43	... 215	...207	
Lucknow	...8	..48	91	... 352	...262	
Mumbai	...3	..49	21	... 382	...281	
Pune	..—	..23	39	... 222	...154	
Visakhapatnam	.10	..14	..6	... 120	...102	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Jind, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 421 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Shillong, Meghalaya recorded a healthy AQI score of 17

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

TTD mulls season-wise SOPs to enhance pilgrim safety

The Hindu Bureau
TIRUMALA

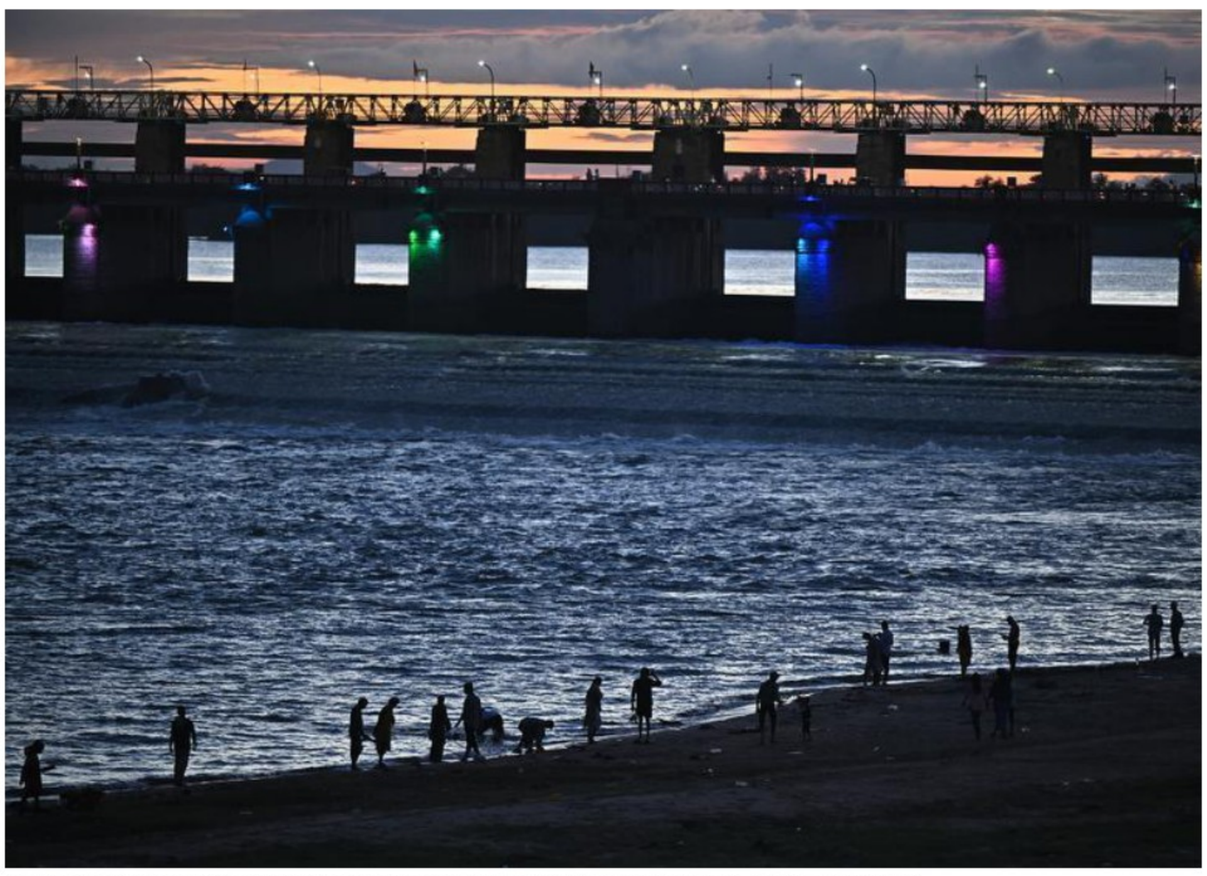
To counter the challenges posed by the inclement climatic conditions during monsoons and other seasons, the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has decided to formulate season-wise Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to ensure maximum safety and convenience for devotees.

Chairing a virtual review meeting with senior officials on Tuesday, TTD Additional Executive Officer Ch. Venkaiah Chowdary reviewed the preparedness of vital departments and instructed the officials to come up with season-wise SOPs.

To minimise inconvenience during monsoon showers, the officials were directed to reduce SSD token issuance, ensure effective use of covered queue systems, and serve annaprasadam on time. Security personnel would be deployed at waterfall viewpoints on the ghat road to prevent risky gatherings, while a 24×7 patrol vehicle would monitor both the ghat routes and share real-time updates.

Departments were also instructed to clear landslide debris without delay, pump out stagnant water, desilt underground drains, lay coir mats in slippery zones, including the four Mada Streetsm and laddu counters. The electrical and IT wings were told to ensure uninterrupted online services, install barricades near power junctions, and publicise a dedicated disaster response helpline.

Sunset break



People enjoying a quiet time during the sunset at the Prakasam Barrage, in Vijayawada on Tuesday. K.V.S. GIRI

Telangana CM announces ₹1 cr. to slain constable's kin

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Monday paid tributes to police officials killed in action and reaffirmed his government's commitment to the welfare of police personnel, while addressing the Police Flag Day programme in Hyderabad.

"Police means trust and assurance to society. Even when faced with life-threatening situations, the police never back down from their duty," he said.

Mr. Reddy said that 191 police personnel across the country and six in Telangana sacrificed their lives this year. Among them were Greyhounds commandos T. Sandeep, V. Sridhar, and N. Pavan Kalyan, Assistant Commandant Banothu Jawaharlal, and Nalgonda constable B. Saidu.

A. Revanth Reddy

He also remembered constable Empalli Pramod Kumar, who died in an attack by a theft accused in Nizamabad three days ago. He said the government would pay an ex gratia of ₹1 crore to Pramod's family, along with his last-drawn salary until retirement, a government job for a family member, and a 300-yard house plot. An additional ₹16 lakh would be provided from police welfare funds, he said. He also noted that land had been allotted to families of 33 policemen who died in a Maoist attack in Orissa in 2008.

"The Telangana Police has set an example for the country in tackling terrorism, extremism, white-collar crimes, drug trafficking, cybercrime, and other anti-social activities. Our newly formed 'Eagle' wing is effectively leading the fight against the drug menace," he said.

Calling upon Maoists to join the mainstream, Mr. Revanth said peace in Telangana was achieved through the sacrifices and perseverance of the police. He urged those still underground to surrender.

Well-marked low pressure area in the Bay may cause intense rain

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

A well-marked low pressure area over the southwest Bay of Bengal that formed in the early hours of Tuesday is likely to trigger widespread, intense rain, especially along coastal Tamil Nadu, this week as it gathers strength.

The Regional Meteorological Centre has sounded a red alert for four districts – Villupuram, Chengalpattu, Cuddalore, and Mayiladuthurai – indicating extremely heavy rainfall above 21 cm on Wednesday. It has issued orange and yellow alerts for various parts of the State till October 24, as weather systems over the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea continue to feed moisture into the region.

Intermittent spells

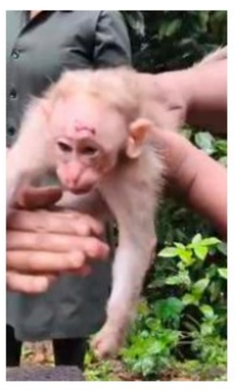
The vigorous Northeast monsoon battered several parts of the State with heavy to very heavy rainfall. During the past 24 hours ending 8.30 a.m. on Tuesday, Thangachimadam in Ramanathapuram district recorded the heaviest rainfall of 17 cm in the State. Many parts of the State continued to experience intermittent spells of rain on Tuesday, with short breaks of sunshine. Incessant rain continued to lash several parts of the State on Tuesday.

According to the RMC, the well-marked low pressure area in the southwest Bay of Bengal is likely to turn into a depression over the south-west and adjoining west-central Bay of Bengal off the north Tamil Nadu-south Andhra Pradesh coasts by Wednesday afternoon. It will further move towards the north Tamil Nadu-Puducherry-Karaikal and south Andhra Pradesh coasts and further intensify into a deep depression by Thursday afternoon.

Forest staffers revive baby monkey by performing CPR in an act of compassion

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

In a heart-warming act of compassion that has since gone viral, three tribal women from a Vanasamrakshana Samiti (forest protection committee) in Thiruvananthapuram revived a baby macaque after it suffered an electric shock near the Kallar Golden Valley forest checkpost on Tuesday.



The three staffers of the forest protection committee who revived the baby macaque. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The incident unfolded along the Vithura-Ponmudi road when two young monkeys came into contact with a high-tension power line. One of them fell onto a tree branch, while the other crashed onto the black-topped road, unconscious and suffering a wound to its forehead. Without hesitation, Ponmudi Vanasamrakshana Samiti members Udaya, Sachithra, and Saugandhika, members of the Kani tribal settlement in Mottamoodu, Vithura, rushed to the scene. The trio immediately administered cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) by performing chest compressions in an attempt to revive it. Miraculously, their efforts succeeded.

After administering basic treatment to the wound, they released the revived monkey back into the wild, a moment that has captured widespread attention and praise.

'Not a menace'

"Even though we have suffered greatly due to wild animals and lost crops to wild boar, elephant, and bear incursions, we never thought of turning our backs on these baby monkeys. Animals do pose a menace to us, yet we have always lived alongside the forest and its creatures," says Udaya.

Cold calculations

NDA and Mahagathbandhan are using schemes and promises to get votes

Rival fronts in Bihar are settling their internal dynamics even as constituents negotiate seat sharing and individual parties choose their candidates for the two-phase Assembly polls, on November 6 and November 11. The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) has had relatively smooth sailing in seat sharing with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Janata Dal (United), or JD(U) taking 101 seats each. The Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) is contesting 29 seats, while six seats each will be contested by the Hindustani Awam Morcha (Secular) and Rashtriya Lok Morcha. The Mahagathbandhan or Grand Alliance of the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), the Congress, the CPI, CPI(M), CPI(ML) and others is, however, struggling with conflicting claims over seat sharing and even leadership of the alliance. In the clearest manifestation of the BJP's upper hand in the NDA, it will, for the first time, contest as many seats as the JD(U). The JD(U) had already lost its senior partner status in the alliance in 2020, but its leader, Nitish Kumar, continued at the helm as the BJP did not want to upset the apple cart. In 2025, the BJP appears more confident of being an authentic platform for the backward caste communities which considered Mr. Kumar as their key leader. Consequently, the BJP has indicated that Mr. Kumar may be replaced in the event of the alliance winning yet another term, beating anti-incumbency.

The BJP's strategy for primacy involves a combination of caste-based social engineering and a consolidation of horizontal identities such as youth, women, farmers and senior citizens. It is clever in accommodating caste interest groups, but is also using state resources in a brazen manner to offer welfare schemes that cut across caste. It is notable that the BJP, which decries subsidies, has designed schemes which are little more than ill-disguised efforts to purchase votes. A grant of ₹10,000 to start businesses has reached more than a third of women voters. Between the Congress and the RJD too, there is a cold war. As they enter the decisive phase of the battle, the two big parties appear to consider each other necessary but share little organic and emotional bonding. Their resolve and posture appear to fall short against the challenges. A formidable caste combination in Bihar is against the Mahagathbandhan, and the RJD has a past that continues to haunt it. The Mahagathbandhan is trying to match the NDA's schemes by making undeliverable promises. Unfortunately for Bihar, the strategies of both alliance groups ring cynical than optimistic.

Turning tides

Pakistan cannot ensure internal security by bombing Afghanistan

When the Taliban recaptured Kabul in August 2021, after two decades of insurgency, Pakistan viewed it as a tactical victory. Imran Khan, then Prime Minister, famously said the Afghans had "broken the shackles of slavery". But the Taliban's return emboldened the Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan (TTP), which is organisationally distinct from, yet ideologically aligned with, the Afghan Taliban. Over four years, Pakistan, particularly the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province bordering Afghanistan, has seen a dramatic surge in militant attacks. This year alone, at least 2,414 people were killed in militancy-related violence in Pakistan, according to an Islamabad-based think tank. Pakistan blames the Afghan Taliban for sheltering the TTP, better known as the Pakistani Taliban, and tensions escalated into full-scale cross-border clashes. On October 9, while Taliban Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi was visiting India, Pakistan carried out air strikes in Kabul, apparently targeting the TTP. These strikes triggered a week of cross-border attacks that left dozens dead, before a fragile Qatar-brokered ceasefire took effect.

When the Afghan Taliban were waging an insurgency, Pakistan offered them refuge and support. Pakistan's military establishment expected the Taliban to remain loyal once in power. But when the Taliban took over the reins in Afghanistan, the old patron-client relationship was replaced by state-to-state ties, with deep structural contradictions. The Pakistani Taliban, which oppose the merger of Pakistan's tribal areas with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, want their version of a strict Islamic code to be enforced and demand the release of TTP prisoners, drew inspiration from the Afghan Taliban's triumph. The Durand Line, the colonial-era border, re-emerged as another flashpoint as Kabul has never recognised it. Besides, Pakistan's decision to deport thousands of Afghan refugees strained ties further. What likely provoked the Pakistani establishment even more was India's diplomatic outreach to the Taliban. By carrying out air strikes on Kabul in response to militant attacks, Pakistan appears to be setting a new precedent – holding Kabul directly accountable for cross-border militant attacks – in a move reminiscent of India's doctrine of responding to terrorism with overwhelming force against Pakistan. Yet, the security crisis in Pakistan now engulfing its tribal areas is largely of its own making. For decades, it has followed a contradictory policy – fighting terrorism while harbouring terrorist/militant groups that were fighting its neighbouring countries. It backed the Taliban for over two decades, hoping that a Taliban-controlled Kabul would offer it strategic depth. That strategy has now backfired. If Pakistan believes that it can restore internal security by bombing Afghanistan, it is mistaken. Prolonged conflict and chaos will only deepen instability and strengthen insurgency.

India's travails in negotiating a friendless world

M.K. Narayanan

is a former Director, Intelligence Bureau, a former National Security Adviser, and a former Governor of West Bengal

For India, the challenge of adapting its foreign policy to emerging global realities is proving to be highly daunting for its foreign policy mandarins. Steeped in the traditions of the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s, they seem unable to come to terms with current realities. Adapting India's foreign policy to new global realities is, however, an urgent necessity.

With the advent of President Donald Trump in the United States, multilateralism or even plurilateral ways of advancing foreign policy, seem to have lost all meaning. India, however, is yet to demonstrate the necessary flexibility to deal with a seemingly friendless world, in its neighbourhood and well beyond. As days go by, India's trust deficit only seems to be growing, and the consequences can be serious.

The view about India

At one level, it would appear that India is losing its 'geopolitical relevance' despite the best efforts of its foreign policy establishment. Undoubtedly, Mr. Trump's pyrotechnics are aggravating the situation and his constant shifting of goal posts clearly demands extreme nimbleness on the part of the foreign policy establishments. For the present, India's foreign policy mandarins are finding themselves out of step, and increasingly isolated in the comity of nations. That we should find ourselves in this difficult situation is unfortunate. U.S. policy alone cannot be the reason, for there is much more happening across the world with India increasingly being seen as an 'outlier' when it comes to situations and events. All this at a time when India's economic heft is growing and it is among the top five economic powers of the world.

Two recent events bring this out in stark detail. Even as the world celebrates the new Gaza peace settlement – a critical breakthrough in the troubled politics of this region which was largely orchestrated by Mr. Trump and the U.S., with the support of Türkiye, Egypt, Qatar and a few other nations, India's absence or exclusion from the process smacks of its growing irrelevance in the politics of West Asia. That countries such as Türkiye, which demonstrate a degree of hostility towards India, should have been critical to the process of settlement adds further grist to India's growing irrelevance.

India appeared to compound this situation even further by sending the lowest level of representation for the grand reconciliation held to celebrate the end of the Gaza conflict and the return of peace to West Asia, at which most world leaders were present. For Indians across the world, this should be a wakeup call, something that needs to be remedied sooner rather than later.

Closer home, another signal event where India 'was a conspicuous absentee' was the Gen Z revolution in Nepal that seemed to spiral out of control. It only seemed to further demonstrate that India's foreign policy lacked both depth and content, even where its vital interests are at stake. The revolution, on India's doorstep, may have followed a slightly different pattern than the youthful dissent seen in Bangladesh and Indonesia previously, but the fact that India found itself helpless and a mere bystander when tumultuous events were taking place on its doorstep, should make discerning observers of the scene sit up and take notice.

Adapting India's foreign policy to new global realities is a necessity

Additionally, there is a disconcerting strategic angle to India's displacement from the driving seat, with this space being filled by countries not so well disposed, if not inimically inclined, towards India. Türkiye is a case in point, for during the recent India-Pakistan conflict, it was seen siding with Pakistan. Recently, Türkiye along with countries such as Egypt and Iraq were the toast of West Asia even as Mr. Trump spread benediction across the entire West Asia.

Additionally, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan have signed on to a Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement to treat aggression against one as against both, which only seemed to confirm India's position as an outlier in a region where previously Indic influence reigned supreme. All this would suggest that India's foreign policy has not demonstrated adequate ingenuity and flexibility to deal with the many vicissitudes and problems that afflict the region.

The situation in the neighbourhood

India cannot afford to be complacent. In its immediate neighbourhood, the Afghanistan-Pakistan conflict threatens peace across a swathe of India's northwest. India may tend to view the attacks by the Afghan Taliban on Pakistani cities as retributive justice, but this would be shortsighted. Since Field Marshal Asim Munir effectively took over the reins of power in Pakistan, the threat that Pakistan poses to India and the region has gone up significantly. There is every need to 'unfang' the Pakistani dragon to ensure peace in the region. Being satisfied with the Afghan Taliban's attacks on Pakistan's rear can provide cold comfort at best. India's efforts should be on how best to create a conducive atmosphere where wars remain the last resort.

The rest of India's neighbourhood also remains in turmoil, and the challenge before India's diplomats is how to persuade countries such as Bangladesh and Nepal, which are currently perceived as hostile to India, to retrace their steps and make it worthwhile for them to maintain better relations with India. India-Sri Lanka relations are seen like an enigma wrapped in a mystery. While outwardly, India-Sri Lanka relations are on an even keel, it would be a mistake to underestimate the intrinsic potential of countries such as China to muddy the waters.

Vis-à-vis China, while India's diplomacy may look like 'work in progress', it appears more an effort to patch over differences. This is specially so in the context of what may be termed as the current India-China bromance. Since Tianjin (August 2025), there has been a tendency in India's diplomatic circles, and possibly within the political establishment as well, to gloss over the June 2020 Galwan episode as a 'mere blip' in long-standing China-India ties.

This willingness to ignore the realities of a long-standing and fast-festering China-Indian border problem appears intended to give an impression that 'peace is at hand'. Little, however, has changed on the ground and the current diplomatic and military exchanges clearly lack candour.

Ties with China

Indians have seldom been able to comprehend Chinese elliptical thinking on global and regional issues, and even more so in its diplomatic manoeuvres. China-India ties today have not returned to the period that existed in 1988, following Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's highly successful visit to China. There is, hence, every need for India to be cautious; India would do well to acknowledge that China is a conundrum that is not easily cracked. China's President Xi Jinping is much less a statesman than his predecessors Deng Xiaoping and Hu Jintao, and India cannot be too careful in its dealings with Xi's China.

China and the U.S. are, without doubt, presently engaged in a 'cat and mouse game' on tariffs, and Mr. Xi's gambit, *viz.*, immediate and tangible concessions for long-term gains (including entering into deals with regard to the resumption of exports on rare earth materials to the U.S.) cannot possibly be the model for India to follow or adopt.

Also, what India needs to be concerned about is that, friendly or not, China is steadily expanding its influence across much of the region to India's east, and adopting devious ways, including proliferation of small businesses at one level to a growing presence in universities, research centres and in cyber space at another, to establish its dominance and eclipse India's influence across this region. India's needs to be wary and it is increasingly becoming evident that as the U.S.'s influence wanes across much of the world and is steadily being eclipsed in large parts of Asia, a new China-led order is emerging in East and Southeast Asia.

This article, hence, should be seen as a wakeup call. Reiteration of the old adage that 'eternal vigilance is the price of liberty' is important. India's future is assured, but it also depends on how much effort is made to protect its brand of civilisation. It is quite distinct and different from that of China, the West, the Persian/Arab variety and other forms of democracy that had held sway over the years.

Unreliable air and noise data, real-time deception

Rohan Singh

is an independent journalist covering urban environment, governance and urban public health in India

Kushagra Rajendra

currently heads the Environment and Sustainability domain at Amity University, Haryana

Policy is only as strong as the credibility of the data it rests on. In recent months, two failures in India's environmental monitoring systems have raised disturbing questions of governance – Delhi's Real-Time Air Pollution Network and Lucknow's National Ambient Noise Monitoring Network. Both were launched with fanfare, but their scientific weaknesses erode not only public trust but also India's international credibility.

For decades now, it has been evident that the air in Indian cities is unfit to breathe, with Delhi ranked as the worst. Yet, audits and inquiries, including the recent Comptroller and Auditor General of India report reveal flaws in the monitoring network at multiple levels. Several sensors are placed under tree cover, behind walls or obstructions. More recently, the Delhi government has proposed installing sensors in relatively less polluted locations. Official data often report air quality as "moderate", while citizens gasp for breath in toxic smog. This is not a matter of technical deficiency alone but raises a fundamental question of governance. When evidence itself is unreliable, on what basis can public pollution policy stand?

The importance of sound data

Every action plan for Delhi, whether on stubble burning, vehicular restrictions or industrial emissions, must rest on robust and scientifically sound data. If the very data are not representative or distorted to understate pollution, it is not only the policies but also their direction that stands compromised. Weak monitoring risks India's global commitments (Paris Agreement, World Health Organization (WHO) Air Quality Standards), and priorities in the process.

In Lucknow, the situation is no different. In 2017, the average noise pollution levels in seven Indian cities exceeded the limits set by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). In 2017, the former Environment Minister, Anil Madhav Dave, in the Rajya Sabha, highlighted serious flaws in India's urban noise-control policy. The noise monitoring network was flawed from the outset, with sensors failing to capture actual decibel levels. India continues to rely on the outdated Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000, which has been criticised as being inadequate. The decibel limits fall short of WHO guidelines, enforcement is weak, and penalties carry little deterrence.

With monitoring networks releasing misleading raw data, policy efficacy, public trust and international credibility become weak

Technology is deployed as spectacle without scientific discipline. Shiny hardware without rigour breeds opacity. Misleading data downplay hazardous levels as merely "moderate." In a democracy, misleading the public on health is deeply troubling. Governance becomes a contest between citizens and industries: flawed numbers favour inaction and the voices of citizens demanding protection under the right to health and life are suppressed.

In Delhi, misleading Air Quality Index often delays judicial intervention. In Lucknow, inaccurate noise data weaken fundamental rights under Articles 19 and 21. The judiciary too has begun to acknowledge this. In a recent order, the Supreme Court of India transferred pleas highlighting noise pollution around Delhi Airport to the National Green Tribunal, underscoring that such disputes demand specialised adjudication. This recognition makes it clear that noise is no longer a nuisance but a constitutional and public health issue.

The missing pillars

The CPCB does have clear guidelines on sensor location, calibration and periodic audits. But enforcement is lax by design, political pressures abound, and independent scientific scrutiny is nearly absent.

The irony is glaring. Class-1 quality sensors for air and noise monitoring are installed at enormous public expense by the CPCB under the aegis of the Environment Ministry. There is no independent panel to review monitoring systems as in international norms. Without third-party audits and transparent processes, public trust in official data will continue to erode.

The latest Air Quality Life Index report (Energy Policy Institute) shows that if Delhi's air met WHO standards, average life expectancy could rise by 8.2 years. Across India, pollution silently erodes life expectancy by close to five years. The jugglery by agencies with misleading data diverts focus from accountability

This debate is not about devices but about people's health. Fresh scientific evidence shows that exposure to pollutants such as nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) and fine particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$) weaken lungs and accelerate myopia. When air quality indices misrepresent reality, children with asthma are exposed to unsafe air. Likewise, flawed noise monitoring leaves infants and the elderly unprotected. Behind every misleading index or incomplete dataset lies preventable harm.

Science as the foundation

For monitoring to inspire trust, science must guide its foundation. Install sensors strictly according to standards with independent experts. Keep raw data open, enable routine third-party audits and create formal citizen oversight.

The experiences of Delhi and Lucknow are a warning: environmental monitoring cannot be treated as a bureaucratic formality. Real-time technology is meaningful only if it reflects reality. In India's rapid urbanisation, environmental data will shape policy, inform the public and represent the nation globally. If the data regime is misleading, the price will be paid not in reports but in children's lungs and the sleepless nights of citizens. Scientific rigour, transparency and public trust must be the bedrock of India's environmental monitoring revolution. Otherwise, real-time networks will turn into real-time deception.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Toxic air

It is intriguing to note that Delhi, of all the cities in India, is always in the news on account of severe air pollution after Deepavali. A friend of mine living in Delhi begs to disagree with this oft-repeated notion about the poor Air Quality Index (AQI) in Delhi. According to him, every other month, farmers in Punjab and Haryana burn agricultural waste leading to smog ever so frequently in Delhi. This friend also disagrees with the contention that vehicular traffic is a major contributing factor. I think the authorities should mull over the ground-level situation by inviting people's opinions on how best AQI levels be controlled and only then decide on long-term measures to control air pollution in Delhi and other cities.

Govardhana Myneedu,
Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh

The policy of permitting so-called "green crackers" while banning regular ones is akin to banning *beedis* but allowing filtered cigarettes — cosmetically progressive but substantively hollow. In a city that is already gasping, this is a distinction without a difference. If cultural pressure and economic stakes could be overridden earlier, they can be overridden now, especially when the winter inversion is already trapping India's air under a toxic lid.
The so-called "middle path" merely licenses a controlled deterioration.

Harsh Pawaria,
Rohtak, Haryana

Escalatory

The Defence Minister of India recently issued a veiled threat to Pakistan, which sparked a counter from the Pakistan Army chief. This exchange of rhetoric is perhaps reckless and endangers south Asia's fragile peace. Already scarred by conflict in Afghanistan, our region cannot afford this sort of escalatory brinkmanship. There ought to be diplomacy and dialogue.

P.H. Hema Sagar,
Secunderabad

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

We need a law to protect domestic workers

R. Geetha
Advisor to the Unorganized Workers Federation

Priti Narayan
Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography at the University of British Columbia

In January, the Supreme Court directed the Union government to enact a comprehensive law to stipulate the rights of domestic workers and set up a committee to look into setting up a framework for it. The Court directed the committee to submit a report in six months. Whether this has been done or not remains unclear.

Status of domestic workers

India is estimated to have 4 million-90 million domestic workers. A majority of them are women and girls and most of them are from Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) communities, rendering them particularly vulnerable to structural power differences.

The Court's recent directive was issued as part of criminal proceedings involving the confinement and trafficking of a female domestic worker from a ST community from Chhattisgarh to Delhi. These proceedings bring attention to several considerations that are important in devising rights and protections for domestic workers. Workers toil in the homes and workspaces of other people, which has the effect of atomising them. Inspections into workplace conditions become nearly impossible. These workers may be subject to harassment, abuse, and segregationist practices. Child labour is rampant in this sphere. Exploitative employment agencies and brokers frequently mediate relationships between employers and employees. While some workers labour full time in a single household, others work across multiple households for a few hours each day. This can make the stipulation and enforcement of minimum wages, work hours, and leave entitlements tricky.

Many workers are migrant workers who need protections across State borders. Workers also routinely come in from neighbouring countries. The absence of a separate national-level legislation to look into protections and benefits hurts workers in multiple ways.

The absence of a separate national-level legislation to look into protections and benefits hurts workers in multiple ways

In recognition of their contributions to the global economy, the International Labour Organization passed a Convention (no. 189) in 2011 to ensure the rights and protections of domestic workers. While India voted in favour of the convention, it is yet to ratify it. As noted by the Court, there have been multiple attempts to pass legislation at the national level from the 1950s. The National Platform for Domestic Workers (NPDW) was formed in 2012 specifically to demand a comprehensive Central legislation for domestic workers. The NPDW drafted a Domestic Workers (Regulation of Work and Social Security) Bill in 2017, but this Bill was never enacted into law. While the Court's new directive is welcome, the fact that the Court directed various ministries to constitute a committee comprising "subject experts" with no representatives of domestic workers is a matter of concern.

Gains made at the State level

In Tamil Nadu, where there are about 2 million domestic workers, a welfare board has been set up under the Tamil Nadu Manual Worker Act, 1982. Through it, registered workers receive benefits, including pensions, maternity benefits, educational assistance for children, and accident relief. However, a very small number of workers are actually registered. While minimum wage is stipulated at ₹37-39 per hour, workers tend to make much less. They are seen as "part-time" workers because they may not work full time in a single household. In response to a plea filed by a domestic worker in Dindigul, the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court directed the State government to consider enacting a special legislation to protect domestic workers.

Meanwhile, the Karnataka government announced the introduction of the Domestic Workers (Social Security and Welfare) Bill, 2025, which looks to regulate the working conditions of domestic workers. It requires that employers compulsorily register domestic workers with the government and commence employment with a written contract that includes an agreement on wages and work hours. It entitles workers to minimum wages, overtime pay, and weekly holidays. Importantly, it requires employers to contribute 5% of wages to a welfare fund that will distribute welfare benefits to domestic workers.

What should be done

Tamil Nadu is one of only 12 States that stipulates minimum wages for domestic workers. These wages must be updated and increased, while all States must be required to stipulate minimum wages for domestic workers. In addition to the already-mentioned provisions in the NPDW draft Bill and the Karnataka legislation, the NPDW recommends that all employers, employment agencies, and workers be compulsorily registered with the State government. A workbook must be issued to each employer through a tripartite board constituting employers, employees, and the State. This must be maintained by each employer and employee and endorsed each month. Women workers have reported not being able to access local complaints committees set up at the district level under the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act. These complaints committees must be set up at panchayat and urban local bodies.

Housing is another critical consideration for domestic workers. While workers in Tamil Nadu received some assistance during the pandemic-induced lockdowns in 2020 and 2021, several could not pay rent. Rather than intermittent relief in the event of a "crisis", structural solutions are imperative to protect the women in this critical workforce.

The long wait for a resolution

A High Court order on the Munambam dispute has deepened the legal tangle

STATE OF PLAY

K.S. Sudhi
sudhi.ks@thehindu.co.in

The recent order of the Kerala High Court, declaring the disputed Munambam holding as not a Waqf property, has deepened the legal imbroglio rather than offering a lasting solution to the vexed issue.

The judgment of a Division Bench of the High Court, which found the actions of the Kerala Waqf Board regarding the Munambam land to be bad in law, stopped short of striking them down. The order has put the ball back in the court of the Waqf Tribunal, which is already seized of the matter.

Two sections of Kerala society, with the backing of various political and religious formations, are engaged in a pitched political and legal battle over the nearly 400-acre holding located along the coastal belt of Ernakulam district.

The Bench passed a landmark order, while striking down a single judge's order, which cancelled the appointment of a former judge of the Kerala High Court as the Inquiry Commission into the Munambam issue. The Bench also termed the Kerala Waqf Board's notification and registration of the Munambam land as Waqf as an act of land grabbing with an eye on the valuable real estate.

A setback

The observations of the court are a major setback for the Board, which is mandated by the Waqf Act to protect and manage Waqf properties. The Board is now left with no option but to challenge the decision. The Board can either go for a review of the decision before the Division Bench, which passed the order, or approach the Supreme Court with a Special Leave Petition. In either case, the agency will have to spend much of its energy and resources on challenging the order, which has raised serious questions about its functions.

In its elaborate order spread over 122 pages, the two-member Bench also gave little consideration to the judicial wisdom of the single judge, who cancelled the government order appointing the Inquiry Commission. The Bench could have taken a lenient view of the conclusions of the single judge in the case than terming it as "ex facie erroneous and having been passed in ignorance of Mussalman Waqf Act 1923 and the Waqf Acts of 1954 and 1995, as also the "pronouncements of the Supreme Court from time to time."

What has come as a real surprise is the observation of the Division Bench regarding the possibility of even the High Court building or State Legislature Complex being declared as a Waqf property if the Board is allowed to continue with its "arbitrary declaration" of Waqf properties, as in the case of Munambam.

It may be recalled that some far-right organisations had earlier raised the spectre of some historical monuments being declared as Waqf property if the provisions of the Act were not struck down. The sarcastic comments of the Bench, presumably, have not gone down well with the stakeholders. The observations, which were given special emphasis in the court order, apparently lacked any legal backing or justifications and could leave wider socio-political ramifications.

Continuing fight

As the legal war over the Munambam holding assumes new proportions, the plight of the bona fide owners of parcels of land in the coastal village is far from over. They had been petitioning the authorities, right from the village offices to the top political offices in the country, seeking justice. They have also mustered the support of various socio-political organisations in their fight for their holdings.

However, the claims of the villagers are keenly contested by the Board and the organisations, which are determined to restore what they term as the alienated Waqf properties in the State. The organisations which have committed themselves to the restoration of Waqf properties say that around 30,000 acres of properties given in Waqf have either been encroached upon or changed hands, thus defeating the very purpose for which the properties were dedicated.

It may take a few more years and long-drawn legal battles, even to the highest court of the country, to find a judicial finality to the contentious issue. Endless litigation and delayed delivery of justice are what appears to be on the cards for the Munambam residents as well as the organisations fighting for the restoration of Waqf properties in the State.

Does India's 1.9 fertility rate reflect reality?

The large gap between real and calculated Total Fertility Rate is particularly relevant in a developing country such as India

DATA POINT

Anish Gupta
Shubham Sharma

The recent United Nations Population Fund's State of World Population 2025 report shows that India's current Total Fertility Rate (TFR) has fallen to 1.9. This sub-replacement fertility has shifted the focus of discourse from the belief that rapid population growth is the root of economic backwardness to new concerns about ageing populations.

The report brings urgent questions to the forefront. Does the methodology used to calculate TFR accurately reflect public perception? And could the decline in TFR pose risks to India's economic trajectory, thereby creating the need to raise the TFR?

Perceived meaning of TFR

In public discourse, TFR is interpreted as the average number of children a woman would bear by the end of her reproductive age. However, it is a statistical measure which calculates the average number of children a woman would have in her lifetime if she experienced the current birth rate trends at each age cohorts from 15 to 49 years throughout her reproductive life.

The reproductive age is divided into seven five-year age cohorts: 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, and 45-49. For each age cohort, the number of live births per 1,000 women in a given year is calculated; this is known as age-specific fertility rate (ASFR). These ASFRs are then converted into per-woman figures by multiplying each rate by five (since each cohort covers five years) and dividing by 1,000. Adding up the figures for all seven cohorts gives us the TFR.

This calculation assumes that that today's 15-19 age cohort will show fertility patterns similar to today's 45-49 cohort (or other older cohorts) once they themselves reach that age, and vice versa. This is known as the synthetic cohort assumption.

Limitation of TFR calculation

Real fertility preferences do not follow the synthetic cohort assumption. They often evolve differently, as future younger cohorts are likely to exhibit preferences that differ from those of today's older women.

Another important limitation is that it is a point-in-time measure, which is highly sensitive to a phenomenon known as the tempo effect. This refers to changes in the timing of childbearing, not necessarily reduction in the number of births. Since TFR is calculated from the ASFRs of women in a given cohort, births postponed are not captured in that year's data, so the fertility of women who delay childbirth is effectively 'missed' even though they may have the same number of children later. Thus, tempo effect artificially reduces the TFR and gives a false impression of lower fertility. The phenomena exacerbates when birth postponement takes place in the majority of the younger age cohorts. Interestingly, today's postponement will overestimate future TFR calculation. This large gap between real and calculated TFR is particularly relevant in India, which is simultaneously undergoing economic, social, and cultural transitions. These include rising female literacy and a more career-oriented outlook among women that creates a stronger incentive to delay childbirth.

The ASFR trends presented in **Charts 1 and 2** reflect a shift in childbirth patterns, with fertility being postponed from younger to older cohorts. In urban areas, the decline in the share of ASFR among the youngest two cohorts (15-19 and 20-24) and the corresponding increase across the older cohorts (25-29 to 45-49) strongly indicates a postponement of fertility preferences rather than an overall decline in fertility.

In rural areas, a decline in the share of ASFR is observed in the 15-19 age cohorts, along with an increase in the 20-24 to 30-34 age cohorts. This also suggests a postponement of fertility preferences. However, unlike in urban areas, this shift is largely confined to the middle age cohorts. The declining share of older cohorts (35-39 and above) points to a reduction in fertility preference in these age cohorts.

Another key limitation of the TFR is its exclusion of births to women below 15 and above 49, based on the assumption that such cases are negligible. This assumption is less valid in developing and Islamic countries where early marriages are common. Owing to legal and social sensitivities, births to underage girls are often concealed. Moreover, survey enumerators may also avoid uncomfortable questions, as noted in the 2020 DHS Methodological Report.

Given these problems, and amid growing calls to raise the TFR due to concerns over ageing population, it is important to recognise that historically, sub-replacement fertility has not constrained economic progress, as evidenced in Europe, the U.S., and several newly industrialised economies. Moreover, India has missed the opportunity to fully harness its demographic dividend, constrained by persistent youth unemployment, a challenge likely to intensify with automation and AI. More importantly, the current size of the elderly population remains largely independent of present fertility trends. While caring for the ageing population is a moral responsibility of the state, its urgency does not automatically increase simply because of a reported decline in TFR.

Anish Gupta teaches economics at the Delhi School of Economics; Shubham Sharma is a Research Associate at the Institute for Educational and Developmental Studies, Noida. Roshan Soni, from DSE, assisted with data

Delayed and not counted

The data for the charts are based on the authors' calculations using unit-level data from the NFHS rounds 3, 4, and 5

1 The reproductive age is divided into seven five-year age cohorts: 15-19 to 45-49

2 For each cohort, the number of live births per 1,000 women is calculated (ASFR)

3 These age-specific fertility rates (ASFRs) are then converted into per-woman figures

Chart 1: Urban age-specific fertility rate (ASFR) contribution to total fertility rate (TFR)

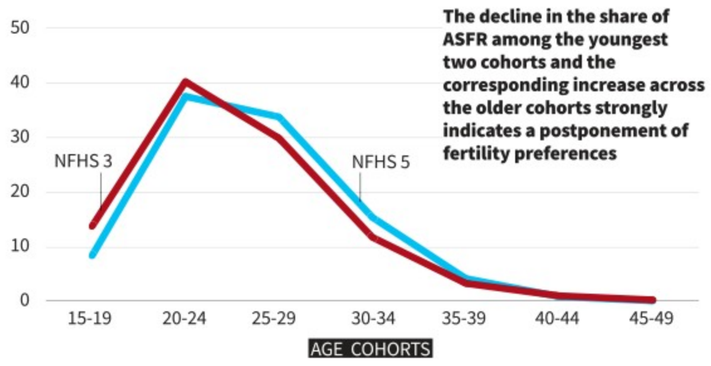
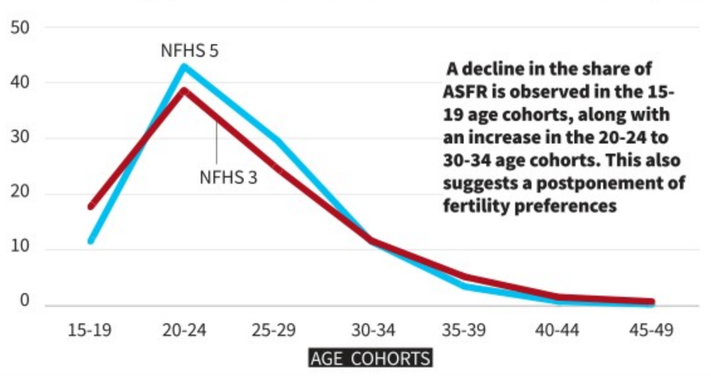


Chart 2: Rural age-specific fertility rate (ASFR) contribution to Total Fertility rate (TFR)



FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO OCTOBER 22, 1975

Jobless in Bombay living off jobless

Bombay, Oct. 21: Many jobless people in Bombay have been found living off the jobless.

Their strategy is to float employment agencies offering attractive openings in the oil-rich Sheikhdoms of West Asia.

Several agencies have been exposed by the victims in the last two months. But a majority remain silent sufferers to avoid legal procedures.

The agencies canvass for candidates seeking attractive salaries in the Gulf region and collect advances ranging from Rs. 350 to Rs. 6,000. The applicants are then asked to wait for appointment order and necessary travel documents, including passports and no objection certificates.

When nothing materialises even after months, the victims seek fund from the agencies who usually issue cheques that bounce at the bank counter.

In some cases, the agencies arrange no-objection certificates and send applicants abroad. On landing there, they would find to their utter dismay that the travel documents empowered them to stay in that country only for 48 hours.

The agencies are said to be operating also in remote areas in Kerala through their agents. Remittances to city-based agencies by post from gullible people have been made. Many victims arranged for the advance by pawning their ornaments.

Quite a few even quit their jobs in anticipation of lucrative salaries in the fabulous Sheikhdoms.

In a case reported by the police this month, about 100 persons were collectively duped of over Rs. one lakh. The victims hailed from Kerala, Karnataka and Gujarat.

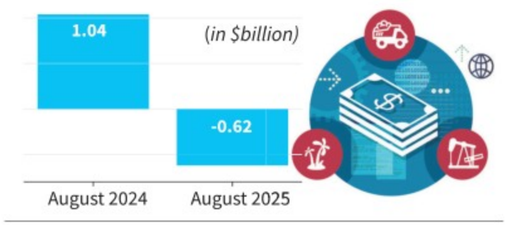
A HUNDRED YEARS AGO OCTOBER 22, 1925

Storm havoc in Rangoon

Rangoon, Oct. 21: The Collector, in the course of his report to the Chief Secretary, regarding the damage caused by the recent cyclone, says: The schooner - "Wavelet", dragged foul of the brig "Delhi," both sustaining damage. One cargo boat sank alongside the S.S. "Burma," off the Botataung fixed moorings. Two cargo boats sank off the Thompson Street jetty 50 or 60 squared logs of timber, adrift in the harbour, damaged and sank many small fishing boats and Sampans.

From Page One

Net FDI fell 159% in August: RBI data


FDI fall
While the total amount of money leaving the country fell in August 2025, the amount invested in India fell more, leaving net FDI in the negative
1.04
(in $billion)
-0.62
August 2024
August 2025

This was the lowest level of gross inflows in this financial year so far.

The amount repatriated and disinvested by foreign companies operating in India stood at $4,928 million in August 2025, down 5.4% from the amount in August 2024 but nearly 30% higher than the amount in July 2025.

Foreign investments by Indian companies contracted 29.7% in August 2025 to $1,736 million, the lowest in this financial year.

Taken together, this meant that net FDI into India – the difference between the gross amount coming in and the total amount going out – stood at -$616 million in August 2025, 159% lower than in August last year. That is, more money left the country in August 2025 than entering it that month.

This had happened in May 2025 as well, albeit at a smaller scale, as net FDI had stood at -$5 million during that month.

Longer period, better picture

However, the FDI picture looks better when looked at over a longer timeframe.

Net FDI in the April-August 2025 period was $10,128 million, more than 121% higher than in the same period last year. This was driven by an 18.2% increase in gross inflows ($43,760 million) entering the country and a 6.1% contraction in repatriation and disinvestment ($21,205 million) leaving India during this period.

Foreign investment by Indian companies stood at $12,427 million in the April-August 2025 period, up nearly 26% over the same period of the previous year.

Delhi air quality inching to a five-year low

A perusal of the AQI values on Deepavali and the subsequent day on the CPCB website shows that in 2023, Delhi's post-Deepavali (November 13) AQI was 358 (very poor) - close to the 351 (very poor) reported at 4 p.m. this year. The five-year record, however, was on November 5 in 2021, when it recorded 462 ('severe').

Deepavali AQI this year in the city was 345, only topped by Deepavali AQI of 382 on November 4, 2021.

The CPCB presents an annual report of air quality and noise-pollution levels nationally on Deepavali night and following day. It is expected later this week. The Environment Ministry didn't offer any comment or analysis of the Delhi air quality on Tuesday.

'India a symbol of stability in a world going through crises'

On Deepavali, Narendra Modi hails the successes of Operation Sindoor and fight against Maoist insurgency; he says with new GST rollout, the country has embarked on next-generation reforms

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

> This Deepavali is particularly special because for the first time, lamps will be lit in many districts across the country where Naxalism and Maoist terrorism have been eradicated from the root. In recent times, we have seen many individuals abandoning the path of violence...
>
> **NARENDRA MODI**
> Prime Minister

In an open letter to the citizens on Deepavali on Tuesday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi cited the success of Operation Sindoor, the fight against left-wing extremism, and the rationalisation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) structure as signs that India has emerged as a beacon of stability in a crisis-ridden world.

"I extend my heartfelt greetings to all of you on the auspicious occasion of Deepavali... This is the second Deepavali after the grand construction of the Ram temple in Ayodhya," Mr. Modi said.

"Lord Shri Ram teaches us to uphold righteousness and also gives us the courage to fight injustice. We have seen a living example of this a few months ago during Operation Sindoor. During Operation Sindoor, Bharat not only upheld righteousness but also avenged injustice," the Prime Minister wrote.

Mr. Modi said this Deepavali "is particularly special" because "for the first time, lamps will be lit in many districts across the country".

"These are the districts where Naxalism and Maoist terrorism have been eradicated from the root. In recent times, we have seen many individuals abandoning the path of violence and joining the mainstream of development, expressing faith in the Constitution," he added.

Amid these "historic achievements", Mr. Modi said the country had embarked on next-generation reforms in recent days.

"On the first day of Navratri, lower GST rates were implemented. During this 'GST Bachat Utsav', citizens are saving thousands of crores of rupees," he said, adding, "In a world going through multiple crises, Bharat has emerged as a symbol of both stability and sensitivity."

"We are also on track to become the third largest economy in the world in the near future," Mr. Modi said.

The primary responsibility of citizens was to fulfil their duties towards the nation, he said. "Let us promote the spirit of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat'. Let us respect all languages. Let us maintain cleanliness. Let us prioritise our health. Let us reduce the use of oil in our food by 10% and embrace yoga. All these efforts will rapidly move us towards a Viksit Bharat," he said.

"Deepavali also teaches us that when one lamp lights another, its light doesn't diminish but it grows further," the Prime Minister said.

Cong. targets PM as Trump repeats his claim on Russian oil

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Party leader Jairam Ramesh says the U.S. President had raised the issue thrice in the past five days

The Congress on Tuesday criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi after U.S. President Donald Trump's fresh claim that Mr. Modi, in a telephonic conversation, had "assured" him that India would stop buying Russian crude oil.

Accusing the Prime Minister of being "loud at home" but "silent abroad", the party sought clarity on the issue.

Intensifying its attack on the Modi government, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said Mr. Trump had raised the issue thrice in the past five days, "clearly brushing aside" the Ministry of External Affairs's (MEA) stand that no such phone conversation took place between the two leaders.

"The matter of India's imports of oil from Russia has been raised by President Trump now thrice in the past five days. And no doubt he will keep increasing this tally as he prepares to meet President (Vladimir) Putin in Budapest later in the week. President Trump says he has spoken to his good friend Mr. Modi and India has promised to stop these imports. The MEA says that it is unaware of such conversations(!) but President Trump has clearly brushed aside the MEA's attempts at denial," Mr. Ramesh said in a post on X.

Speaking to reporters onboard Air Force One on Sunday, Mr. Trump said India will continue to pay massive tariffs if it does not cease buying oil from Russia, adding that it (India) does not want to do that.

Angmo's 'surveillance' raises question on personal freedoms of NSA detainee's kin

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

A complaint by Gitanjali Angmo, wife of detained activist Sonam Wangchuk, in the Supreme Court that the state and its agencies watch her every step and even whisk her away in vehicles with curtains drawn over windows, raises the question of whether the personal freedom and right to free movement of a family member of a person restrained under the National Security Act (NSA) are also forfeited.

Mr. Wangchuk was detained under provisions of the NSA, 1980 following violent protests on September 24 in Leh. He has been shifted to the Jodhpur Central Jail.

Ms. Angmo told the top court how Intelligence Bureau (IB) officers and the Rajasthan Police intercepted her the moment she landed and came out of the airport on the two occasions she visited Mr. Wangchuk in the jail on October 7 and 11.

In an affidavit, she said the conduct of the agencies during both visits affected "my personal freedom and fundamental rights as a free citizen of India".

"As soon as I landed and came out of the airport, the officers of the IB and the Rajasthan Police came to me right outside the airport, and asked me to sit in their car with white curtains drawn on the windows blocking the view, and they took me to the jail for the meeting. The officers took me to the office of the Jail Superintendent and were with me for the entire period. Before every visit, they would ask me the details of my journey and the time I would be in Jodhpur," she narrated to the court.

Gitanjali Angmo

Two officers would sit "within earshot" during her entire meeting with Mr. Wangchuk, she said. Her notes containing his instructions for legal assistance were photographed.

The activist's wife said she was not allowed to meet anyone in Jodhpur and was "taken" to the railway station, "even when I had a few hours to spare before boarding the train". Her "escort" boarded the train with her and only alighted at Merta Road Junction, the next stop, two hours after Jodhpur.

"As a free citizen, I am entitled to go to Jodhpur when I like, how I like, and meet my husband without restrictions of my movements. No other person should have been privy to my conversations with Sonam Wangchuk. These actions are violative of my rights under Article 19 (right to free expression) and Article 21 (right to personal liberty) of the Constitution," Ms. Angmo, through her counsel Sarvam Ritam Khare, submitted in the top court.

She was "followed and under surveillance in Delhi constantly", Ms. Angmo said. She had held a press conference in the national capital on September 30, and was tailed from her accommodation by a car and a man on a motorcycle.

In its response, the Home Department of the Union Territory of Ladakh, through its Additional Secretary, Rigzin Spalgon, denied Ms. Angmo's allegations as "baseless" and an "afterthought that deserves only to be rejected".

The administration said it did not have any personnel "present" during Ms. Angmo's visits to Jodhpur. It "outrightly denied" putting her under any kind of surveillance in Delhi. "There is no question of any kind of violation of Articles 19 and 21 by the Administration," the Home Department insisted.

Ex-Punjab DGP, his wife booked over son's death

The Hindu Bureau
GURUGRAM

The Haryana Police have filed a First Information Report (FIR) against Mohammad Mustafa, the former Director General of Police (DGP) for Punjab (Human Rights), his wife Razia Sultana, a former PWD Minister, and two other individuals.

They face allegations of murder and criminal conspiracy related to the mysterious death of their son, Aqil Akhtar.

The FIR was filed at the request of Aqil's neighbour, Shamshudeen Chaudhary, at Mansa Devi Complex police station in Panchkula on October 20. Aqil's wife and sister have also been named as accused in the case.

(With inputs from PTI)

Lokpal wants to buy 7 BMW cars, draws Opposition ire

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Anti-graft ombudsman Lokpal has floated a tender to procure seven luxurious BMW cars, collectively worth around ₹5 crore, drawing condemnation from Opposition parties and anti-corruption activists who questioned the institution's priorities.

"According to the tender and the manufacturer's website, the long-wheelbase sedan has an on-road price of approximately ₹69.5 lakh per unit in Delhi. It is described as the longest and most spacious car in its segment, designed for outstanding comfort in an extremely luxurious cabin. The Lokpal of India invites open tenders from reputed agencies for supply of seven BMW 3 series 330Li cars to the Lokpal of India," read the tender floated on October 16.

The procurement aims to provide a vehicle for each of the institution's current members, including Chairman Justice A.M. Khanwilkar (retd.) and six other members.

India upgrades its Technical Mission in Kabul to embassy

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

MEA statement says this takes place with 'immediate effect'; comes after Taliban Minister's Delhi trip

Days after the visit by Taliban administration's acting Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi, India has upgraded its Technical Mission in Afghan capital Kabul to an embassy. In a statement, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said the upgrading took place with "immediate effect" on Tuesday.

"In keeping with the decision announced during the recent visit of the Afghan Foreign Minister to India, the government is restoring the status of the Technical Mission in Kabul to that of Embassy of India in Afghanistan with immediate effect. This decision underscores India's resolve to deepen its bilateral engagement with the Afghan side in all spheres of mutual interest," said the MEA in a statement. Official sources said a chargé d'affaires (CDA) would soon be appointed who would steer the embassy till the appointment of an ambassador.

Multiple major powers such as Iran, China, Russia, Gulf countries and Central Asian republics have engaged the Taliban but Russia alone has granted recognition to the Taliban as the *de jure* ruler of Afghanistan. Sources indicated that it may be sometime before India sends a formal ambassador to take charge of the embassy in Kabul.

The decision to upgrade the Technical Mission was taken after External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met with Mr. Muttaqi on October 10 against the backdrop of intense hostilities that had broken out between Afghanistan and Pakistan along the Durand Line. Subsequently, the two sides have declared a ceasefire through mediation of Qatar. India had shut its embassy in Kabul and withdrew the existing staff in August 2021 when the Taliban overthrew the government of President Ashraf Ghani.

Modi congratulates new Japan PM, says ties vital to promote Indo-Pacific peace

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Ties between India and Japan are "vital" for regional and global peace, said Prime Minister Narendra Modi, congratulating Japan's newly elected Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi on Tuesday. Officials said the two leaders are expected to speak over the telephone in the next few days, and are likely to meet as early as this weekend, on the sidelines of the upcoming Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit and the East Asia Summit (EAS).

Mr. Modi is expected to travel for the summits, although the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has not made an announcement yet.

In a message on social media, Mr. Modi said he looked forward to working closely with Ms. Takaichi to further strengthen the India-Japan 'Special Strategic and Global Partnership'.

"Our deepening ties are vital for peace, stability, and prosperity across the Indo-Pacific and beyond," Mr. Modi added.

New horizons: Sanae Takaichi, centre, arrives at the Prime Minister's office in Tokyo on Tuesday. AP

Agreements inked

The change in government in Japan comes just weeks after Mr. Modi visited Tokyo to hold the 15th India-Japan summit with then-Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba on August 29. The two sides had signed a number of agreements including an Economic Security Partnership, including cooperation on building critical mineral industry capacity, and an upgraded Strategic Partnership. Experts say Ms. Takaichi is expected to continue the upward trend in India-Japan ties, and strengthen them further.

"Ms. Takaichi is a protegee of former PM Shinzo Abe, whose tenure in office (2012-2020) is seen as the golden period for India-Japan ties," former Ambassador to Japan Deepa Wadhwa told *The Hindu*. "As a result, she will likely continue to focus on the Indo-Pacific as Mr. Abe did, and we can expect her to be more proactive about the Quad engagement as well," Ms. Wadhwa added.

London-based scholar 'blacklisted', stopped from entering India

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Hours after London-based Hindi scholar Francesca Orsini was denied entry into India, a senior government official said she had been placed on an immigration blacklist in March 2025 for "violating visa conditions".

Ms. Orsini is of Italian origin, and Professor at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), London.

She was stopped in the early hours on Tuesday at the Delhi airport, and deported by immigration officials.

Ms. Orsini had a valid five-year tourist e-visa when she was deported. She arrived in India via Hong Kong, prior to which she attended a conference in China.

She last visited India in October 2024.

She could not be reached for comment.

"It is standard global practice that if a person is found violating visa conditions, he/she can be blacklisted," the official said.

According to another official, Ms. Orsini had travelled to India in 2024 on her e-visa, but had spoken at a university, and conducted research, which was considered a violation of the terms of her visa.

APPEAL

Mohammed Nayeem is 11 years old suffering from "Relapsed Hodgkin's Lymohoma with Hemophagoctic Lymphohistiocytosis. He is advised to undergo Bone Marrow Transplantation at **Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research** Centre, Madurai. The total expenditure is Rs. 20,00,000/-. His father is working in a private company and they cannot afford this huge cost. Please help this boy to undergo the treatment. Donations sent by Ch/D.D. favouring **Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai will be acknowledged.** The donations sent through Ch/D.D/M.O/ NEFT Transfer & GOOGLE PAY (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/c No. 60182010063310, IFSC No: CNRB0016018) favouring **WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE** is exempted under 80G IT. Your e-mail ID is requested.
All correspondence is done through **WWS**, Regd Public Charitable Trust, **Flat No. GF 1, Corddel Apartments, O.No.13, N.No. 29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai-600006. Ph: 044-42137401/ 31523781/ 7338978027.**
E-mail ID: womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com.
Website: www.womenswelfaresyndicate.org.

WWS

BIHAR ASSEMBLY ELECTION

Tejashwi raises questions on Nitish's health

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar gave rise to fresh speculation about his health on Tuesday when he insisted on garlanding a woman NDA candidate and ticked off a close aide who tried to stop him.

The JD(U) supremo launched his Assembly poll campaign in the Meenapur constituency of Muzaffarpur, where he had the crowds in splits for mispronouncing local party candidate Ajay Kushwaha's name and adding the prefix "Shri" to Rama Nishad, the BJP candidate from Aurai.

RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav shared the video clip of the incident on his X handle with the remark, "He is a strange man indeed. If he is in sound mental health, why is he reading out from a written speech and indulging in such behaviour?" PTI

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar at an election rally in Muzaffarpur on Tuesday. ANI

Cash and liquor valued at over ₹71 crore seized

Enforcement agencies have seized cash, drugs, liquor and precious metals worth over ₹71 crore in Bihar since the announcement of the Assembly polls, the Election Commission said on Tuesday.

Bihar has been a dry state since 2016, when alcohol was banned. The EC said that as on Tuesday, over ₹71.32 crore worth of cash, liquor, drugs, precious metals and other freebies have been seized through a coordinated approach involving multi-enforcement agencies across different States and Union Territories. The panel said that 824 flying squads have been deployed across Bihar to ensure that the complaints are attended to within 100 minutes.

Citizens and parties can report poll code violations using the C-Vigil mobile application or ECINET. PTI

Mahagatbandhan has been completely exposed and failed; parties are forfeiting ground before the election

MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI
BJP leader

Will move HC against election officials, says VIP

Vikassheel Insaan Party chief Santosh Sahani on Tuesday said he would move the Patna High Court, seeking action against election officials of Darbhanga's Gaura Bauram seat for not dismissing the candidature of the RJD's Afzal Ali Khan even after party chief Lalu Prasad made a written request. PTI

On one hand, the Congress is trying to snatch the Jananayak title of Karpoori Thakur, while on the other, PM will pay tribute to Thakur

DILIP JAISWAL
BJP State president

Seat-sharing issues: CPI(ML) Liberation general secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya said that it is a closed issue. ANI

Grand alliance fields 253 candidates for 243 seats

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

With the deadline for filing nominations for both phases of the Bihar Assembly election ending on Monday, the *Mahagatbandhan*, or grand alliance, has fielded 253 candidates, 10 more than the total number of seats in the Bihar Assembly. Smaller allies are pointing a finger at both the Rashtriya Janata Dal and the Congress for taking the negotiations down to the wire, leaving little elbow room for others.

In five seats – Vaishali, Narkatiaganj, Sikandara, Kahalgaon, and Sultanganj – the Congress and the RJD candidates are facing off against each other. In the previous Assembly election, the Congress had unsuccessfully contested all five of these seats. In Sikandara, the Congress lost by 5,505 votes, while its losing margin in Vaishali was 7,413.

In another four seats – Bihar Sharif, Raja Pakar, Bachchwara and Kargahar – the contest is the Congress versus the Communist Party of India. Of these, the Congress won the Raja Pakar and Kargahar seats in the 2020 election, and their incumbent legislators are again in the fray. The Vikassheel Insaan Party and the RJD are also facing off against each other in one seat. Amidst all this tussle, the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha, which was part of the initial rounds of negotiations, was not offered any berth.

External and internal flak

The grand alliance is hoping to shift the narrative back towards Opposition unity. "In a day or two, we will be presenting our joint manifesto. It will be presented by senior leaders of all constituent parties," a senior RJD leader said.

The situation has prompted cheer in the ruling National Democratic Alliance, with several leaders calling out the confusion in the Opposition camp.

However, several grand alliance leaders also raised questions about the prolonged negotiations that went down to the wire. CPI general secretary D. Raja said, "RJD and the Congress are the larger parties in Bihar and they should have settled their own seat negotiations in such a way that other allies are also accommodated well. After all, we are not asking for a huge share... We are asking for only a few seats." The CPI was offered six seats, the same number it contested in 2020. However, it has now fielded candidates in nine seats.

Downplaying discord

CPI(ML) Liberation leaders also accused the RJD of citing the excuse of new partners in the alliance for not raising their party's seat share, while the RJD only shaved off one seat from its own 2020 share of 144 seats. The RJD is contesting the highest number of seats in this election. However, CPI(ML) Liberation general secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya said that it is a closed issue now. "There is a clarity among people, they want a change. Heartburn among those denied seats and such confusion early during the campaign is natural. Its impact should not be overestimated," he said.

RJD's Buxar MP Sudhakar Singh noted that the NDA too is not free of problems, with Union Minister Amit Shah himself raising questions about Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's leadership. "Our differences are magnified while the problems within the NDA are underplayed," Mr. Singh said.

'Ticket for kin': despite protestations, parties yield to dynastic pressure

Though top leaders speak up against dynasty politics and the danger it poses for democracy, the importance of family connections in electoral politics has not diminished in the latest Assembly polls, as the candidate lists of the parties are packed with sons, daughters, nephews, and in-laws

IN FOCUS

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

Though top political leaders talk about dynasty politics corroding the fabric of democracy, most major political parties in Bihar continue to hand out ticket to the kin of their senior figures. Neither the ruling National Democratic Alliance nor the grand alliance is an exception to the trend.

Sons, daughters, wives, daughters-in-law, sons-in-law, and nephews of politicians are in the fray. In the NDA, Union Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi, founder of the Hindustani Awam Morcha (Secular), has fielded daughter-in-law Deepa Kumari in Imamganj seat and her mother Jyoti Devi in Barachatti, and son-in-law Praful Manjhi in Sikandra.

Former MP and seasoned Bhumihar leader Arun Kumar's son, brother, and nephew have got ticket. His son Rituraj Kumar is the Janata Dal (United) candidate in Ghosi, while his brother Anil Kumar and nephew Romit Kumar have got HAM(S) ticket in Tikari and Atari, respectively.

The BJP, which remains vocal on dynasty politics and never misses a chance to attack the Opposition parties over nepotism, has taken decisions going against its own rhetoric, giving ticket to family members of established politicians. Prominent among the names is Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary, who is the son of veteran leader and former MP Shakuni Choudhary, a founding member of the erstwhile Samata Party. Mr. Samrat Choudhary is contesting an election after a gap of 15 years in Tarapur.

The BJP has renominated Nitish Mishra, son of former Bihar Chief Minister Jagannath Mishra and nephew of former Railway Minister L.N. Mishra, from Jhanjharpur. Mr. Nitish is a Minister in the Nitish Kumar Cabinet. Similarly, Shreyasi Singh has been renominated from the Jamui seat. Ms. Singh is the daughter of former Union Minister Digvijay Singh, while her mother, Putul Kumari, was an MP for Banka. The BJP has replaced its candidate in Gaura-Bauram and given ticket to Sujit Kumar Singh, husband of Swarna Singh, MLA. Another name is Sanjeev Chourasia in Digha who is the son of veteran BJP leader and former Governor Ganga Prasad. Nitin Nabin, who has been fielded from Bankipore, is the son of former MLA Navin Kishore Prasad.

In the family: RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav filing his nomination in the presence of his parents, former Chief Ministers Rabri Devi and Lalu Prasad, in Hajipur. ANI

There are several other candidates of the BJP such as Rana Randhir, son of former MLA and former MP Sitaram Singh, in Madhuban; Devesh Kant Singh, son of former MLA Bhupendra Narayan Singh, in Goriyakothi; Vishal Prasant, son of former MLA Sunil Pandey, in Tarari; Gayatri Devi, daughter-in-law of former MLA Ram Naresh Yadav, in Parihar; and Arun Kumar Singh, whose father Brij Kishore Singh and grandfather Yamuna Singh were MLAs, in Baruraj.

No different

The JD(U) list is no different from that of its alliance partner. Anant Singh, husband of Neelam Devi, MLA, is contesting the Mokama seat. Chetan Anand, son of former MP Anand Mohan, has been nominated from Nabinagar, and Abhishek Kumar, son of former Minister Manju Verma, from Cheriya-Bariyarpur.

The LJP(RV), led by Union Minister Chirag Paswan, son of the late Ram Vilas Paswan, has also given ticket to his nephew Simant Mrinal, while his brother-in-law is already an MP for Jamui.

Also in the fray is Snehlata from Sasaram, wife of Upendra Kushwaha, Rajya Sabha member and head of Rashtriya Lok Morcha (RLM).

The RJD, which has faced criticism for gravitating towards dynasty politics for several years, has several such candidates including Tejashwi Yadav, son of former Chief Ministers Lalu Prasad and Rabri Devi, is contesting from Raghopur Assembly seat.

The party has given ticket to Osama Shahab, son of don-turned-politician late Mohammad Shahabuddin, from Raghunathpur seat in Siwan district whereas Shivani Shukla, daughter of former MLA and strongman Munna Shukla, who is currently serving a life sentence in the Brij Bihari murder case, is nominated from Lalganj . Ms. Shukla's mother is the former MLA for the seat.

The RJD has fielded Rahul Tiwary, son of senior RJD leader and former MP Shivanand Tiwary from Shahpur. Karishma Rai, granddaughter of former CM Daroga Prasad Rai, is contesting from Parsa, whereas Rahul Sharma, son of former MLA Jagdish Sharma, is the candidate from Ghosi. VIP chief Mukesh Sahani has fielded his younger brother Santosh Sahani from Gaura-Bauram where there is a friendly contest with the RJDs' candidate Afzal Ali Khan. Prashant Kishor's Jan Suraaj Party (JSP) is no exception as it gave tickets to Lata Singh, daughter of former MP R.C.P Singh from Asthawan besides Jagriti Thakur, granddaughter of socialist leader Karpoori Thakur, in Morwa.

BJP is forcing JSP candidates to withdraw from polls, says Kishor

Amarnath Tewary
PATNA

Amid rumours that three Jan Suraaj Party (JSP) candidates have withdrawn their nomination papers to join other political outfits, party founder and former poll strategist Prashant Kishor on Tuesday accused the BJP of "coercing and threatening" his party's nominees to pull out of the electoral race. He alleged that the BJP was using "pressure tactics" as it lacked the "courage to fight".

Three JSP candidates – Akhilesh Kumar Shah alias Mutur Shah (Danapur), Satya Prakash Tiwari (Brahampur), and Shashi Shekhar Sinha (Gopalganj) – have recently withdrawn their nomination papers, each citing different reasons. Speaking to presspersons, Mr. Kishor showed photographs of top BJP leaders, including Union Home Minister Amit Shah, with JSP candidates who had recently withdrawn their nominations.

"Has anyone ever seen in any election senior leaders of one party sit with candidates of another party for an entire day?" Mr. Kishor asked, while addressing the media. "The BJP leaders have coerced and threatened our candidates to withdraw. We're not afraid, it's they who lack the courage to fight us. They don't consider the *Mahagatbandhan* as a real contender, so they're trying to crush us instead," he added.

Jan Suraaj chief Prashant Kishor addressing a press conference ahead of the Bihar Assembly polls in Patna on Tuesday. PTI

Mr. Kishor said that as many as 14 candidates were under pressure from the BJP to withdraw but many had refused to do so.

The JSP leader displayed a picture showing Mr. Amit Shah, other BJP leaders and the JSP candidate from Danapur constituency. Mr. Kishor alleged, "Mr. Shah was with our party candidate Mutur Shah for the whole day. What will happen when the country's Home Minister calls you and sits with you the whole day? Naturally, one will come under pressure," he said. He said the Danapur candidate had received the party symbol from the State JSP president Manoj Bharti and had started campaigning after filing the nomination. However, he had withdrawn his candidature due to the BJP's pressure, Mr. Kishor said.

The *Mahagatbandhan* has put up local strongman and incarcerated Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Rit Lal Rai as a candidate against former BJP MP from Pataliputra constituency, Ram Kripal Yadav.

Mr. Yadav holds the reputation of an "easily accessible" leader and has begun campaigning in his constituency while Mr. Rai's brother Pintu Rai, recently released on bail, has begun campaigning on his sibling's behalf.

Mr. Kishor also displayed a photograph of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, the BJP's Bihar in-charge, with Satya Prakash Tiwari, the Brahampur JSP candidate who has now withdrawn his papers. In the Brahampur seat, the BJP-led NDA alliance partner Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) party's nominee and strongman Hulas Pandey is contesting against RJD candidate Shambhu Nath.

Mr. Kishor's third example was Shashi Shekhar Sinha of Gopalganj, who withdrew despite earlier assuring JSP leaders that he would resist pressure.

"He told us on October 20 that he would stand firm, but just two hours later, he withdrew and went incommunicado," said Mr. Kishor.

He claimed senior BJP leaders and a party MLC had visited Dr. Sinha's residence the day before.

Local BJP MLC Rajeev Kumar alias Gappu Babu, however, dismissed the allegations. "The JSP candidate is like our guardian... how can we put pressure on him? An attempt to malign our senior party leaders is nothing but an exercise by Mr. Kishor to increase his TRP," the BJP MLC told *The Hindu* over phone.

EC bars print ads on poll eve, voting day without certification

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The poll body says the measure was to ensure fair campaign environment

Ahead of the Bihar Assembly election, the Election Commission (EC) on Tuesday said that no political party, candidate, organisation or individual would be permitted to publish advertisements in print media on the poll day and the day preceding it unless the content has been pre-certified by the Media Certification and Monitoring Committee.

For the Bihar polls scheduled in two phases on November 6 and 11, the restriction will apply on November 5 and 6 for Phase 1, and November 10 and 11 for Phase 2. It has also announced byelections in eight other Assembly constituencies.

"Applicants seeking pre-certification for political advertisements in print media must apply to the MCMC not later than two days prior to the proposed date of publication of the advertisement," the EC said in a statement.

The commission said the measure was intended to ensure a fair campaign environment and prevent misinformation or last-minute manipulation through unverified content. To facilitate timely approval, MCMCs at the State and district levels have been directed to examine and pre-certify such advertisements expeditiously.

Last week, the poll body instructed parties to obtain pre-certification for all advertisements and directed candidates to declare their "authentic" social media accounts while filing nominations.

October 9 order

The EC, through its October 9 order, made it mandatory for all recognised national and State parties, as well as contesting candidates, to seek prior approval from the MCMC for all political advertisements on electronic and social media before publication. The MCMC monitors suspected cases of paid news and is empowered to take appropriate action in such instances.

Additionally, the EC reiterated that dissemination of bulk SMS and audio messages is prohibited during the 48-hour 'silence period' before the conclusion of polling.

INBRIEF

LS appoints consultant for probe against Justice Varma

The Lok Sabha Speaker has appointed advocate Karan Umesh Salvi as a consultant to assist the committee constituted under the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968, to probe corruption charges against Justice Yashwant Varma. The notification of Mr. Salvi's appointment was issued on October 17 by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla's office. A probe panel earlier constituted by the Supreme Court had recommended Justice Varma's removal. He was repatriated from the Delhi High Court to the Allahabad High Court earlier this year after burnt wads of currency notes were reportedly found at his official residence on March 14.

Google directed to remove fake Jagadish Vasudev ads

The Delhi High Court has directed Google to employ its technological tools to detect and remove misleading advertisements featuring AI-generated images and videos of spiritual leader Jagadish Vasudev. The Court passed the order in favour of him in his suit seeking protection of his personality rights being infringed by various rogue websites and unknown entities. The court also allowed Google to file an affidavit in case it faces any technological limitations or reservations in complying with the order.

Four dead, nine injured in Navi Mumbai high-rise fire

Six-year-old and her parents fall victim to the blaze; officials say short-circuit in air conditioner may have started the fire that spread to other apartments in 13-storey building; a probe is under way

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

A major fire broke out shortly after Monday midnight at an apartment complex in Navi Mumbai's Vashi, killing four persons, including a six-year-old girl, and injuring nine others, said officials of the fire department.

The blaze began between 12.30 a.m. and 12.40 a.m. in flat number 1004 on the 10th floor of Raheja Residency, MGM Complex. Officials said preliminary investigation revealed that an electrical short-circuit in an air conditioner of flat 1004 caused the fire that quickly spread to the 11th and 12th floors of the 13-storey building. The building has four flats on each floor.

The fire claimed the lives of six-year-old Vedika Sundar Balakrishnan, her parents – Sundar Balakrishnan, 44, and Pooja Rajan, 39 – and Sumit John Topno, 18.

Firefighters reached the spot around 1.20 a.m. and brought the blaze under control by 4 a.m. Officials said the operation involved four fire engines. They said teams from Airoli, Koperkhairane, Vashi and MIDC fire brigades responded to the emergency.

Charred walls: Police personnel conducting an inspection after a fire broke out at Raheja Residency in MGM Complex, in Vashi, Navi Mumbai, early on Tuesday. PTI

"Four fire tenders were deployed, and each vehicle carried seven firemen, one officer and one driver, bringing the total strength to nearly 40 personnel. Firefighters battled thick smoke and flames for nearly four hours before the blaze was contained. The rescue operation was difficult as it happened at midnight when people were asleep. Some people were stuck in the smoke and fell unconscious," said an official from the fire department.

Nine residents sustained injuries and were rushed to hospitals in Vashi.

Most of the injured persons, admitted to two hospitals, complained of suffocation, said Sachin Kadam, chief of the Disaster Management Cell of the Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation. Seven of them were discharged later in the day and the condition of others was said to be stable, he said.

The fire brigade also rescued over a dozen people from the building, Mr. Kadam said. A case was registered at the Vashi police station and further probe was on, he said.

(With PTI inputs)

Woman doctor assaulted in Bengal hospital, two held

Shrabana Chatterjee
KOLKATA

One of the accused is a police home guard who allegedly threatened doctor with consequences

A woman doctor was assaulted over a dispute with a patient's attendants at a State-run medical college at Uluberia in Howrah on Monday. Two persons were arrested, one of them said to be a police home guard.

The police said a junior resident doctor at the Uluberia Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay Government Medical College and Hospital was assaulted.

"The doctor has lodged an official complaint. We have filed a first information report, and the two persons named in the FIR were arrested soon after the assault," Jadhav Shubham Pandurang, Sub-Divisional Police Officer (Uluberia), told *The Hindu* on Tuesday. He also confirmed that an investigation is under way.

One of the accused is allegedly a police home guard who threatened the doctor with consequences if she tried to leave the hospital premises. She alleged that she had received rape threats during the assault.

The arrested home guard has been identified as Sheikh Babulal.

The doctor said she was pushed around and physically assaulted during a heated altercation after the patient's companions began escalating the situation.

The Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) slammed the ruling Trinamool Congress for the deteriorating law and order situation and repeated assaults on women doctors in the State.

Homemaker raped

In a separate case of sexual assault on a woman, three men were arrested in Jalpaiguri district of north Bengal.

A homemaker in north Bengal's Maynaguri area was gang-raped by a group of miscreants. Three men were arrested for the crime. The homemaker alleged that she was sexually assaulted inside her home and that the perpetrators threatened to kill her if she revealed details of the incident.

FATF may discuss state sponsorship of terrorism; Pakistan entities in focus

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

State sponsorship includes providing direct funding, logistics, materials, or training

The ongoing Financial Action Task Force (FATF) meetings in Paris are expected to deliberate on state sponsorship as a means to fund and support terrorism, including the financing of banned outfits and their proxies operating in Pakistan, said sources in law-enforcement agencies.

The FATF week started on Monday, and its Plenary will be held from Wednesday to Friday. Representatives of over 200 jurisdictions and observers are attending the meetings.

"Over 130 terror entities and individuals based in, or linked to, Pakistan are listed on the United Nations Security Council's ISIL/Al-Qaeda Sanctions List. The Resistance Force, a proxy of Pakistan-based banned outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba that carried out the gruesome killings in Pahalgam on April 22, has also been designated by the United States as a global terror outfit," an official said.

In June, the FATF issued a statement condemning the Pahalgam terror attack, stating that it could not "occur without money and the means to move funds between terrorist supporters". In July, it released a report, "Comprehensive update on terrorist financing risks", which, for the first time, recognised state sponsorship as a long-standing terror-financing threat to global peace and security.

State sponsorship includes providing direct funding, logistics, materials, or training.

Indian security agencies have gathered inputs showing that the LeT, under the front of Jamaat-ud-Dawa, has raised funds to rebuild its headquarters in Muridke, which was destroyed by the Indian Air Force on May 7.

In May, the Pakistani government had announced that it would finance reconstruction of the LeT and Jaish-e-Mohammed facilities. It allocated four crore Pakistani rupees to the LeT for its headquarters Markaz Taiba, while the estimated cost of its complete reconstruction was likely to exceed 15 crore Pakistani rupees. Therefore, according to the agencies, the outfit raised funds on the pretext of "relief for flood victims".

Doctor raises fresh concern as Delhi HC permits ORSL sales

Siddharth Kumar Singh
HYDERABAD

The Hyderabad-based paediatrician Sivaranjani Santosh, who has been at the forefront of a nationwide campaign against oral rehydration salts (ORS) products, has raised fresh concern after the Delhi High Court granted interim protection to JNTL Consumer Health (India), the manufacturer of ORSL.

The development comes amid an ongoing tussle between the health authorities and the companies marketing sugary beverages reportedly under the guise of medically approved ORS formulations.

The Delhi High Court's interim order allows JNTL to continue selling its existing stock, valued at around ₹180 crore, until the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) completes its hearing on the matter. However, the production of new "high-sugar variants" under the ORSL label remains suspended.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Dr. Sivaranjani said that companies may take advantage of the temporary stay to push misleading products into the market under the pretext of clearing old stock. "The order prohibiting the use of the term 'ORS' in such formulations has been in place for some time now. The companies have been allowed to clear old stocks, but that does not mean unrestricted sale everywhere," she observed.

JNTL had approached the court after FSSAI withdrew earlier permissions that allowed the use of 'ORS' with prefixes or suffixes in product trademarks. The regulator also clarified that only formulations adhering strictly to World Health Organisation (WHO) standards can be labelled as ORS.

Impish glee fades: Asrani, a master of the comic timing, passes away at 84

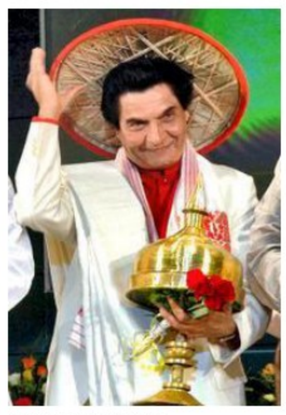
Anuj Kumar

Known for his unparalleled comic timing and expressive facial contortions, Govardhan Asrani had the ability to infuse everyday characters with wit and relatability that withstood the test of time.

The veteran comedian passed away in Mumbai on October 20, aged 84, after a prolonged illness.

Versatility was his middle name as he transcended the typical sidekick stereotype to become a perfect foil for the lead character, blending slapstick with subtle satire and dramatic depth.

Born in a Sindhi family in Jaipur on January 1, 1941, Asrani turned away from the carpet business of his father and wanted to pursue acting. He joined the Film And Television Institute of India under Roshan Taneja. Taking the comic baton, he carved his own niche, appearing in more than 400 films.



Govardhan Asrani

His genius lay in turning brief appearances into memorable moments. Combining physical comedy with sharp dialogue delivery, his most popular performance is as the bumbling jailor, a parody of Adolf Hitler and misplaced sense of power, in *Sholay*. In Asrani's accented Hindi, the single screen sequence becomes a popular culture staple that hasn't lost its charm even 50 years after it first cracked up the audience. There was much more to him than just a purveyor of buffoonery. A dynamic presence in Hrishikesh Mukherjee and Gulzar's movies, with his wide-eyed innocence and goofy smiles, Asrani made even stock characters come alive with his infectious energy.

His popular movies include *Namak Haram*, *Bawarchi*, *Guddi*, *Abhiman*, *Sabse Bada Sukh*, *Satyakam*, *Piya Ka Ghar*, *Mere Apne*, *Parichay*, *Koshish*, *Aarop*, among others.

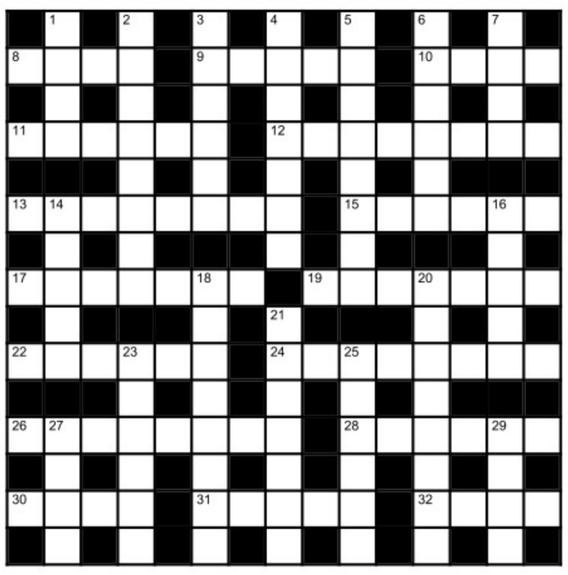
In 1988, he returned to his alma mater, and as the Principal of FTII helped shape its curriculum and remained a guiding light.

TH CROSSWORD + 14619

(set by Incognito)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

8 Star having that lady's ring (4)
9 Child sick? What one may do with Netflix... (5)
10 Some trade name for port (4)
11 Botched affair for manufacturing wine (6)
12 Tore up ID letter and threw garbage in public place (8)
13 Roll with girl and egg with wife in large house (8)
15 Repairs a lunch carrier, perhaps (6)
17 Indian plane manufacturer gets a message to make bomber aircraft (7)
19 Cork's device to arrest flow of liquid (7)
22 Cashier's informant (6)
24 Reserves mares running around boat (8)
26 Wrongly solve: Ring no good for something to be sung at a serenade (4-4)
28 Order initially, "East Coast Road to be built in river"! (6)
30 Only Indian politician from Jammu and Kashmir? (4)
31 Temporarily stop ape running amok round America (5)
32 Horrible! It may be live! (4)

Down

1 Letter's estimated time of arrival? After 7th of September (4)
2 Girls appearing in extraordinary files covering love for singing exercises (8)
3 Scribble "Supreme court misinterprets law after initial reading" (6)
4 Prisoners of war protect sick, giving support for heads (7)
5 Part of blood record returned by Attlee is damaged (8)
6 Entrance with Australian cake (6)
7 Defeated, not dead... That's fair... (4)
14 People of all ages can see this wise man's customary practice (5)
16 Indian king makes water inlet (5)
18 Aerial warfare unit's endless scrap iron thrown away (3,5)
20 Scheme with Chester to produce blank coin (8)
21 Setter leaving European country covers a city in Karnataka (7)
23 Confused lip reader giving up rap for a song (6)
25 Tiller having right source of milk (6)
27 Instrument playing bolero without use of both hands (4)
29 Way to leave old sweetheart with sex appeal (4)

SUDOKU

1				2				
4		2			6	1		3
3			9			7		
		8			9			
6			5		1			9
			3			5		
		5			7			6
7		1	2			8		5
				9				4

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

No.SS6677 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

	E	I		H		S		P		B				
O	M	A	N		I	N	T	E	R	A	L	I	A	
	P		C		J		E		O		U		T	
P	A	N	A	M	A		A	N	T	E	R	O	O	M
	T				C		M		E				N	
C	H	E	R	O	K	E	E		S	H	O	V	E	L
	I		A				R		T		K			
S	C	A	N	D	A	L		E	S	C	A	P	E	S
			G		L		P				P		Y	
P	A	R	E	N	T		E	N	Q	U	I	R	E	D
	G				R		N		U				S	
P	I	R	O	G	U	E	S		I	M	P	A	I	R
	N		K		I		I		V		A		G	
	G	L	A	D	S	T	O	N	E		S	O	H	O
			Y		M		N		R		T		T	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

8	1	4	6	2	3	7	5	9
3	9	6	4	5	7	2	1	8
5	7	2	8	1	9	6	3	4
6	4	1	9	3	2	8	7	5
9	5	3	7	8	1	4	2	6
7	2	8	5	4	6	1	9	3
4	3	7	2	6	5	9	8	1
2	6	5	1	9	8	3	4	7
1	8	9	3	7	4	5	6	2

FAITH

Govinda Pattabhishekam

Among all His manifestations, Perumal's descent on earth as Krishna is the most celebrated one. As Krishna, He destroyed evil (personified by numerous asuras) from the very beginning, many times. Among all His deeds and sports, it is His act of lifting the Govardhan hill, holding it aloft like an umbrella and protecting everyone, culminating in Govinda Pattabhishekam, is an affirmation of His kindness towards His devotees, said Damal Perundevi.

Growing up in Nanda Gokulam, Krishna endeared Himself to everyone to such an extent that residents prefixed His name to everything. One example will suffice: they did not sell butter; instead, vendors called out, 'Do you not want to buy Krishna?' Such being His everlasting love for butter. An expert cattle herder, Krishna was astounded when He found his father Nandagopa rallying everyone to make offerings to Indra, the god of rain. Krishna's father said Indra had to be propitiated and honoured since without his providing rainfall, people's lives would not flourish, nor cattle thrive. Krishna pointed out that good things happen only due to innate goodness and none should pander to another's ego. He directed everyone to pray to the Govardhan hill near their homes, as it offered protection and livelihood to them. They readily agreed.

A furious Indra caused a heavy downpour, following it up with hailstorm, unrelentingly, for seven days. However, Krishna, lifted up hill in one hand, held it like an umbrella over all the residents and livestock. His ego punctured, Indra brought sacred water to perform abhishekam to Krishna, which is known as Govinda Pattabhishekam and Krishna came to be known as Govinda.

INBRIEF

RBI sold $7.7 billion in August to check rupee volatility

The Reserve Bank sold $7.7 billion in August to check exchange rate volatility as well as to arrest the decline in value of the rupee against the American currency. The central bank's net sale of U.S. dollars was at $7.69 billion in August, nearly three times higher than in the preceding month, according to the data on sale/purchase of U.S. dollars published in the RBI's latest bulletin. The data also showed that the Reserve Bank did not purchase U.S. dollars in July and August. PTI

Dr. Reddy's Srikakulam plant gets VAI tag from U.S. FDA

Dr. Reddy's Laboratories has received establishment inspection report for its Srikakulam formulations manufacturing facility from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration with a voluntary action indicated classification. Referring to the July inspection, following which the facility was issued seven observations, the company on Tuesday said the U.S.FDA has classified the inspection outcome as VAI. The inspection is officially closed, it said.

U.S. transshipment tariff: 'firms to face compliance issues'

The 40% transshipment tariff by the U.S. will create major compliance issues for firms in India and the ASEAN region, with high risks for sectors such as machinery, electrical equipment and semiconductors, Moody's Ratings said. Moody's, in its 'Trade - Asia-Pacific' report, said it remains unclear how the Trump administration defines transshipment, but the measures appear to target products originating in China and shipped through third countries with lower tariffs. PTI

Core sector growth slows to 3-month low of 3% in Sept.

Slowdown driven by 4 fuel-related sectors — coal, crude oil, natural gas, and refinery products; Steel was the only one of the eight core sectors that saw growth quicken in September to 14.1%

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Growth in activity in the eight core sectors of the economy slowed to a three-month low of 3% in September dragged down by contraction in the coal, crude oil, natural gas and refinery products as well as a relatively sharp slowdown in fertilizers, official data showed.

The data in the Index of Eight Core Industries released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry shows the index's performance in September was faster than a year earlier but slowest since this June.

Fuel-related sectors
The slower growth was driven by fuel-related sectors – coal, crude oil, natural gas and refinery products.

Growth worries: Crude oil sector contracted 1.25% from a contraction of 3.9% last September. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

The coal sector contracted 1.19% compared with 2.6% growth a year earlier, and a 11.4% growth in August.

Crude oil sector contracted 1.25% from a contraction of 3.9% in September last year. Notably, the crude oil sector had grown 2.4% in August, the first month of growth in eight months.

The natural gas sector witnessed the largest contraction, of 3.8%, in September. The sector contracted for 15 consecutive months, data showed.

Likely due to the side in the crude oil sector, refinery products contracted by 3.6% this September compared with a 5.8% growth a year earlier.

Fertilizers slow down
The fertilizer sector saw growth slowing to 1.6% in September compared with 1.9% a year earlier and 4.6% in August 2025. The cement sector, too, saw growth slowing to 5.3% in September from 7.6% a year earlier.

Growth in the electricity sector slowed to 2.1% in September, faster than the 0.5% seen in September 2024, but slower than the 4.1% in August this year.

The steel sector was the only one of the eight core sectors that saw growth quicken in September to 14.1% from 1.8% in September last year, and 13.6% in August 2025.

TVS' Venu Srinivasan reappointed trustee for life by Tata Trusts

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Venu Srinivasan

Tata Trusts has unanimously reappointed Venu Srinivasan as a trustee for life and all eyes are now on the upcoming decision regarding Mehli Mistry's term renewal, amid reported internal divisions within the organisation.

The reappointment of Mr. Srinivasan this week, ahead of his term expiring on October 23, comes amid reports of a vertical split within Tata Trusts - with one faction said to align with Noel Tata, who took over as chairman following Ratan Tata's death, and the other comprising those seen as loyalists of the former doyen.

A source with direct knowledge of the matter said reappointment of Mr. Srinivasan, chairman emeritus of TVS Group, was unanimous. Tata Trusts declined to comment on the matter.

The focus now shifts to Mr. Mistry, whose term ends on October 28, with opinions divided on if his continuation is automatic or requires unanimous approval from the trustees for lifetime tenure.

Umbrella body
Tata Trusts, the umbrella body overseeing several charitable trusts including the Sir Dorabji Tata Trust and the Sir Ratan Tata Trust, holds a 66% stake in Tata Sons – the holding company of the 156-year-old Tata Group with about 400 companies.

"Renewal and fresh appointment is required to be unanimous as per past practice. Renewal, after which it will be for life, requires unanimous approval," said a source.

However, another person said, "The reappointment is automatic and it is applicable to all the trustees." Citing minutes of the joint meeting of the trustees of the Sir Dorabji Tata Trust and the Sir Ratan Tata Trust held on October 17, 2024, the person said it was resolved on the expiry of the tenure of any trustee, the trustee would be reappointed by the concerned trust without any limit being attached to the period of tenure.

Any trustee who chose to vote otherwise would be in "breach of their commitment and is not fit and proper to serve on Tata Trusts by such conduct", the person added.

As per the October 17, 2024 resolution, all trustees are appointed on a long-term and life basis and trusteeship would be revisited upon reaching 75 years of age.

Diwali delivers blockbuster sales for consumer products

Meenakshi Verma Ambwani
S. Ronendra Singh
NEW DELHI

A blockbuster Dhanteras-Diwali weekend has topped robust festive season sales growth for consumer products industry.

"Over the 30-day period from Navratri to Diwali, we achieved a landmark milestone with over one-lakh vehicle deliveries, reflecting 33% growth compared to the same period last year," said Shailesh Chandra, MD and CEO, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles.

Consumer durables, too, have been witnessing a sparkling festival season.

According to estimates released by the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT), total Diwali sales this year touched a record ₹6.05 lakh crore, comprising ₹5.40 lakh crore in goods and ₹65,000 crore in services.

(The writer is with The Hindu businessline)

Organised retail apparel to get a boost on GST rate cut

The Hindu Bureau
COIMBATORE

The recent GST rationalisation will add about 200 basis points to revenue growth of India's organised apparel retail sector this fiscal, said Crisil Ratings.

Foreign carriers 'poaching' Indian pilots would be disturbing: Elbers

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

Poaching of Indian pilots on a large scale would be 'disturbing' as public and private players in the aviation sector were making large investments in adding new planes and developing airports, said IndiGo CEO Pieter Elbers.

The CEO was explaining the rationale behind a working paper presented by the Indian government before the UN's aviation safety body, International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), calling for a mechanism to curb poaching of Indian pilots by foreign carriers. Government sources said the paper was presented at the behest of the industry and was primarily about Indian aviation professionals migrating to Gulf carriers.

"Both IndiGo and Air India are making massive investments in buying new planes, and now we are collaborating with schools. There are both public and private sector investments in developing airports and other infrastructure. In that context it would be a bit disturbing if you have large groups of people being poached and moved away," Mr. Elbers told *The Hindu* in an exclusive interaction earlier this month.

Pieter Elbers

On whether attrition was a concern for IndiGo, Mr. Elbers said it "goes a bit up and down," but emphasised the need for 'stability' to enable long-term planning as airlines were investing in planes for the next 20 to 25 years.

The working paper titled 'Practices Impacting Orderly Conduct of International Civil Aviation' called for a "code of conduct' among Member States to regulate cross border staff recruitment reasoning that foreign airlines recruiting skilled personnel from Indian carriers that include pilots, engineers, technicians, and cabin crew disrupted the planned growth of domestic players.

The paper was submitted to the ICAO in August ahead of its General Assembly meeting in the last week of September to be taken up for discussion.

"The impact is particularly severe for specialised roles such as AMEs [Aircraft Maintenance Engineers] and type-rated pilots [pilots trained on specific aircraft types], where replacement training can take months or even years. This practice creates an unfair competitive disadvantage where Indian carriers effectively subsidise the training costs of foreign airlines while bearing the operational disruption costs themselves," the paper asserted.

However, India's proposal failed to garner majority support at ICAO.

Against labour market
"While the Commission expressed appreciation for the issues raised in the working paper, it noted the majority of States did not support the action items presented in the paper as these were considered to undermine the core principles of labour market competition. The Commission agreed with the views expressed by several States that these issues should be dealt with at a national level and do not fall within the purview of ICAO," according to the International Federation of Air Line Pilots Associations, which also presented a counter paper. Pilot groupings have contested India's stance and said the proposal violates fundamental rights by restricting Indian professionals from seeking lawful employment overseas and fails to diagnose the root cause for pilots migrating due to dissatisfaction over poor working conditions, lack of contractual security, limited upward mobility and a lack of standardised pay structure.

Duopoly dynamics
"This proposal risks institutionalising a form of bonded labour in a duopoly environment, where Indian pilots may be locked into employment with a single airline under unilateral and ever-changing service conditions," said Air Line Pilots' Association.

While proposing a Code of Conduct, the Working Paper references the DGCA's 2017 rule where the regulator for the first time determined notice period for pilots imposing one year for pilots in command and six months for first officers. This was until then only part of employment contracts with 3-6 months of notice period being the norm. However, the Delhi High Court in 2018 put a temporary stay on this rule.

'India's H2FY26 tech hiring outlook not so promising'

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

India's tech hiring outlook for the second half of FY26 seems "not so promising" with new signs of clear uncertainties emerging on the ground (including 'No Kings' protest) and the existing government shutdown, which could hamper economic growth and create more uncertainty, in the sector's largest customer market, the U.S., say industry observers.

The newer protests are happening even as the real impact of tariffs are expected to hit the market hard in the coming quarters. Overall economic conditions are not promising with a potential rise in debt, inflation and negative consumer sentiments amid trade tensions and geopolitical issues. All these are likely to lead to further cuts in customer budgets and that will eventually impact jobs in India, they cautioned.

"The U.S. administration has opened up a bundle of uncertainties for citizens, entrepreneurs, and Indian tech providers. Uncertainties are only increasing month after month. Now, with 'No Kings' protests, a clear and without doubt, uncertainty has emerged on the ground with over seven

Firms accelerated investments in AI-driven transformation.

million citizens trying to push back Mr. Trump's reforms, including tariffs," observed B.S. Murthy, CEO, Leadership Capital, a CXO advisory firm.

New disruptions
This citizen anger may lead to newer disruptions and all these may adversely hit end-customer sentiments and economic growth in the U.S and then impact IT budgets of enterprises and therefore, Indian tech jobs, Mr. Murthy said.

Avinash Vashistha, Global Chairman & CEO and also formerly chairman & MD of Accenture India told *The Hindu*, "U.S. macroeconomic headwinds, including tariff and debt uncertainties, etc already has the potential to shrink discretionary IT budgets in H2 FY26, impacting tech hiring in India."

According to Equirus Securities, a financial services firm that also tracks the IT sector, the demand commentary, for the upcoming quarters, may stay cautious (unless some certainty relating to tariff related issues emerges).

Mild uptick
The Q2 of FY26 saw a mild uptick in hiring by Infosys, Wipro and HCLTech. TechM said it added 5,817 people (YoY) in the Business Process Services (BPS) segment. However, the quarter witnessed, TCS, the tech bellwether, cutting close to 20,000 jobs.

In the second quarter, on a YoY basis, despite a rise in attrition rates, 3 out of the 5 Tier 1 service firms still recorded a YoY net headcount addition, noted Kamal Karanth, co-founder, Xpheno, a people solutions firm.

He added that an increase in attrition along with net headcount growth, indicates active hiring and a headcount optimisation process."

However, Sachin Alug, CEO, NLB Services, a U.S-based HR provider, opined, "Hiring during Q2 FY26 indicated a renewed wave of confidence across the IT sector, with firms accelerating investments in AI-driven transformation and digital innovation."

India faces specialty fertilizer price jump

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

India is preparing for higher fertilizer prices ahead of the crucial rabi (winter) crop season after China suspended exports of urea and specialty fertilizers from October 15, a senior industry official said.

China, which had only recently resumed fertilizer exports from May 15 to October 15 with increased inspections, has now suspended the export window until further notice, affecting not just India but global markets as well.

The suspension covers specialty fertilizers like TMAP (Technical Monoammonium Phosphate) and Urea-solution products like AdBlue, as well as conventional fertilizers such as DAP and urea.

"China has closed the export window from October 15 not only for India but the entire world market," Soluble Fertilizer Industry Association (SFIA) President Rajib Chakraborty told PTI. "I believe the export suspension will be for the next 5-6 months."

India imports about 95% of specialty fertilizers, including phosphates like TMAP and emission-control fluids like AdBlue, from China.

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A BG-BGE

DAMASCUS

World Bank estimates Syria reconstruction costs at $216 billion

REUTERS

Syria's post-civil war reconstruction could cost up to $216 billion, the World Bank said in a report on Tuesday that follows over 13 years of conflict in the country. Reconstruction is one of the most significant challenges facing Syria's new Islamist authorities after the overthrow of long-time ruler Bashar al-Assad in December. AFP

PARIS

Louvre jewel heist is valued at $102 million: French prosecutor

AP

The loot stolen from the Louvre during the weekend heist is valued at more than $100 million, a French prosecutor said, as scrutiny mounted over security at the country's cultural institutions. Thieves made off with priceless royal jewels from the Louvre museum in a brazen daylight robbery which lasted just seven minutes. AFP

PARIS

France's former leader Sarkozy enters jail over campaign funding

REUTERS

France's ex-President Nicolas Sarkozy became the first former head of an EU state to be jailed Tuesday, proclaiming his innocence as he entered a Paris prison. France's right-wing leader from 2007 to 2012 was found guilty last month of seeking to acquire funding from Moamer Kadhafi's Libya for the campaign that saw him elected. AFP

SAN FRANCISCO

Internet services cut for hours by outage at Amazon cloud services

REUTERS

Popular Internet services ranging from streaming platforms to messaging services to banking were offline for hours on Monday due to an outage in Amazon's crucial cloud network. The disruption affected Amazon's Prime Video service and Disney+, as well as Perplexity AI, the Fortnite game, Airbnb, Snapchat and Duolingo. AFP

'Trump-Putin Budapest summit on hold after Rubio spoke with Lavrov'

Zelenskyy and other European leaders accuse the Russian President of stalling peace efforts in Ukraine; Kremlin states there is no sense of urgency for Trump and Putin to meet, saying that 'preparation is needed, serious preparation'

Associated Press
WASHINGTON

Plans are on hold for U.S. President Donald Trump to sit down with Russian leader Vladimir Putin to talk about resolving the war in Ukraine, a U.S. official said Tuesday.

The meeting had been announced last week. It was supposed to take place in Budapest, although a date had not been set.

The decision was made following a call between U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov.

Recent past: U.S. President Donald Trump greets his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin in Anchorage, Alaska, in August. AFP

The official was not authorised to speak publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov indicated on Tuesday there was no sense of urgency for Mr. Trump and Mr. Putin to meet, saying that "preparation is needed, serious preparation."

The back-and-forth over Mr. Trump's plans is the latest bout of whiplash caused by his stutter-step efforts to resolve a conflict that has persisted for nearly four years.

No surrender of land

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and European leaders accused Mr. Putin of stalling for time to continue his invasion as diplomatic efforts took place.

They also said they opposed any push to make Kyiv surrender land captured by Russian forces in return for peace, as Mr. Trump has on occasion suggested.

Eight European leaders as well as senior European Union officials said in a joint statement they intend to go ahead with plans to use Moscow's billions of dollars (euros) of frozen assets abroad to help Kyiv win the war, despite some misgivings about the legality and consequences of such a step.

The leaders' statement laid down a marker by saying the leaders "remain committed to the principle that international borders must not be changed by force."

Gaza truce going on better than expected, says Vance

Associated Press
KIRYAT GAT

U.S. Vice-President J.D. Vance and other envoys projected optimism on Tuesday about Gaza 's fragile ceasefire agreement, calling progress better than anticipated as they visited a new center in Israel for civilian and military cooperation.

Mr. Vance noted flareups of violence in recent days but said the ceasefire that began on October 10 is going "better than I expected". The Trump administration's Middle East [West Asia] envoy, Steve Witkoff, added that "we are exceeding where we thought we would be at this time."

Mr. Vance tried to downplay any idea that his visit – his first as Vice-President – was urgently arranged to keep the ceasefire in place. He said he feels "confident that we're going to be in a place where this peace lasts," but warned that if Hamas doesn't cooperate, it will be "obliterated."

U.S. Vice-President J.D. Vance speaks to members of the media in Kiryat Gat in Israel on Tuesday. REUTERS

Jared Kushner, President Donald Trump's son-in-law and one of the architects of the ceasefire agreement, noted its complexity: "Both sides are transitioning from two years of very intense warfare to now a peacetime posture." Mr. Vance is expected to stay in the region until Thursday and meet with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

China hawk Takaichi is Japan's first woman Prime Minister

Agence France-Presse
TOKYO

Japan got its first woman Prime Minister on Tuesday after Sanae Takaichi, a China hawk and social conservative, forged an 11th-hour coalition deal.

Japan's fifth Premier in as many years will lead a minority government and has a bulging in-tray, not least a scheduled visit by U.S. President Donald Trump next week.

The lower house of parliament appointed Ms. Takaichi, an admirer of Margaret Thatcher, as Prime Minister on Tuesday, after she unexpectedly won a slim majority in a first round of voting.

The Upper House then voted in her favour, although in a run-off after Ms. Takaichi fell short of a majority. Ms. Takaichi will formally take office after meeting the emperor later.

Sanae Takaichi

The former heavy metal drummer became on October 4 head of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), which has governed almost non-stop for decades but is losing support.

Six days later, the Komeito party, uncomfortable about Ms. Takaichi's conservative views and an LDP slush fund scandal, quit their coalition.

This forced Ms. Takaichi to form an alliance with the reformist, right-leaning Japan Innovation Party (JIP), which was signed on Monday evening.

The JIP wants to lower the consumption tax rate on food to zero, abolish corporate and organisational donations, and reduce the number of MPs.

Ms. Takaichi has said that she hopes to raise awareness about women's health struggles and has spoken candidly about her own experience with menopause.

But she opposes revising a 19th-century law requiring married couples to share the same surname, and wants the imperial family to stick to male-only succession.

Houthis release five Yemeni UN staffers

Associated Press
ADEN

Houthi rebels released five Yemeni United Nations staff members and allowed 15 international ones to move freely within the UN compound after detaining them there in Sanaa over the weekend, a UN spokesperson said Monday. Stéphane Dujarric, the UN spokesperson, also said Houthi security forces had left the compound after the latest of such raids on international organisations.

The rebels have repeatedly claimed, without evidence, that the detained UN staff and employees of other organisations and embassies were spies, which the UN has denied.

Egyptian intelligence chief meets with Israel PM Netanyahu for Gaza discussions

Agence France-Presse
JERUSALEM

Egypt's intelligence head Hassan Rashad met Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Jerusalem on Tuesday for talks aimed at reinforcing a fragile U.S.-backed ceasefire in Gaza.

"Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his professional team met with the head of Egyptian intelligence at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem," Mr. Netanyahu's office said in a statement.

"During the meeting, they discussed advancing President Trump's plan, Israel-Egypt relations, strengthening peace between the countries, as well as other regional issues," the statement added, referring to a Gaza roadmap presented by U.S. President Donald Trump that included the initial truce.

The Egyptian spy chief will also meet with U.S. Middle East [West Asia] envoy Steve Witkoff, who is currently in Israel.

Mr. Rashad's trip to Jerusalem comes more than a week into a fragile truce arrived at between Israel and Hamas.

Chaman border crossing partially reopens after Pak.-Afghan ceasefire

Press Trust of India
KARACHI

The Chaman border crossing between Pakistan and Afghanistan has partially reopened following a ceasefire between the two countries, after days of violent clashes along the border left several people dead on both sides.

Several Afghan families started crossing the southwestern border in Balochistan province on Monday, while multiple Afghan-bound containers were also moved.

The Chaman border was sealed when the Pakistan and Afghanistan conflict started, leaving nearly 400 containers carrying goods from the Karachi port stranded at the border.

Small relief: Nearly 400 containers carrying goods from the Karachi port stranded at the border when the Chaman border closed. AFP

A similar situation was witnessed at the Spin Boldak border crossing in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province where containers coming into Pakistan were stranded.

The Chaman Chamber of Commerce and Industry president, Nafees Jan Achakzai, said since a ceasefire agreement was finalised between both countries in Doha, the border had been partially reopened since Monday evening.

Families move

"Some 400 containers coming from Karachi have slowly started crossing into Afghanistan while some 550 families of around 3,400 individuals have also crossed over," he said.

The families had come from Karachi after being given repatriation orders by authorities as they were found staying in Karachi without proper documentation, he said.

The Pakistani government recently launched a repatriation drive, citing security and economic concerns, prompting thousands of Afghans to return to their home country.

राजीव गांधी राष्ट्रीय युवा विकास संस्थान
Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development
(Institution of National Importance by the Act of Parliament No : 35/2012)
Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India
Sriperumbudur - 602 105, Tamil Nadu

Recruitment Notification - Non-Teaching Posts

Post	Group	Type
Finance Officer	A	Regular
Controller of Examinations	A	Regular
Assistant	C	Regular
Librarian cum Documentation Officer	B	Regular
Consultant (Administration)	-	Contractual
Consultant (Academic)	-	Contractual

Details available at : www.rgniyd.gov.in

TELANGANA STATE GOVERNMENT
Department of Women, Children, Disabled and Senior Citizens Welfare, Rangareddy District
PUBLIC NOTICE

The children shown in the published photograph have been placed under care and protection in the Specialized Adoption Agency run under the supervision of the Department of Women, Children, Disabled and Senior Citizens Welfare, Rangareddy District.

Details of the Children:

This public notice is being published in both State and National Newspapers to trace the biological parents or relatives of the aforementioned children.

If any biological parent or relative of these children is available, they are requested to contact the District Welfare Officer, Department of Women, Children, Disabled and Senior Citizens Welfare, Rangareddy District, within 60 days from the date of publication of this notice, along with valid documentary evidence.

Failing which, these children will be declared as orphans and will be legally made available for adoption as per the rules and regulations prescribed by the Government.

Sd/- District Welfare Officer, WCD&SC Dept., Rangareddy District

DIPR R.O.No. 9507-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2025-26 Dt. 21.10.2025

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The APTRANSCO invites on-line bids for Spec No.PMM21-e-19/2025 for supply of Lot-1: 500MVA 400/220/33kV PTRs-3Nos & Lot-2: 500MVA 400/220/33kV PTRs-3Nos for Augmentation works. Date and time of availability of tender **22.10.2025 by 17:00 Hrs**. Further details can be seen in website(s): www.eprocurement.gov.in For further details Contact Nos: 0866 2429230.

DIPR 4509PP/CL, Dt.21-10-2025 Sd/- CHIEF ENGINEER/TRANSMISSION

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS-TIRUPATI
Office of the Chief Engineer **TENDER NOTICE**

Adv. No.41/D3/CE/TTD/2025-26 & NIT No.648 /SE-II/2025-26 &/NIT No.34 /SE- III/TTD/ 2025 -26 Dt:18-10-2025

Name of work:1) Construction of Entrance 7 Storied Maha Rajagopuram, Arjithaseva Mandapam, Addala Mandapam, Vahana Mandapam, Radha Mandapam, Sri Anjaneya Swamy Temple, Pushkarini and Flooring between inner Prakaram to Outer Prakaram at Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple, Venkatapalem(V), Thullur (M), Guntur District Amaravathi, Capital Area of A.P. (Part-D) **Amount:4800.00 Lakhs, Time for Completion:24 months. 2)** Improvements & Providing Granite flooring to Corridors and UPVC Windows in VSRH-I at Tirumala. **Amount:650.00 Lakhs, Time for Completion: 9 months. NOTE:** For full details log on to the Website **https://www.tirumala.org.**

TTD-40021/10/2025-PRO SEC (Adv.No.264) Date:21-10-2025 **EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited
(A wholly owned Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
(CIN: U04010KA2002SGC030438)

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP Portal only)

BESCOM invites tender through KPP Portal vide **Enquiry No.**BESCOM/2025-26/SE0349 for **"Providing Application Access Control System for BESCOM for 2 years."** Bid documents available from **27.10.2025, 5.00 PM (Onwards).** Last date for bid submission is **25.11.2025, 4.00 PM.** Opening of bid document is on **26.11.2025, 4.30 PM.** The Tender documents can be obtained through KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Aspiring bidders need to register on KPP Portal. Further, bidders can take assistance with KPP helpdesk contact numbers (**+91-80-46010000, +91-080-68948777**) or email at **support@eprochelpdesk.com.**

Sd/- General Manager(ICT & MIS), BESCOM, Belaku Bahavana, 5th Floor, K.R.Circle, Bangalore-560 001.

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Government of Kerala
Published Tenders from 16-10-2025 to 19-10-2025

Department of Agriculture

Tender ID: 2025_AGRI_806444_1 * Director of Agriculture * Supply, installation, trial run, and commissioning of Vertic * Closing Date: 15-Nov-2025 * PAC: Rs15600000

Directorate of Medical Education

Tender ID: 2025_DME_812193_1 * PRINCIPAL * FACILITY MANAGEMENT SERVICES AT GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE K * Closing Date: 03-Nov-2025 * PAC: Rs24293060

Visit https://etenders.kerala.gov.in for more details.

Ro.No:16-19/Oct/2025/PRD/(N)14

RELISHING THE CHALLENGE

McGrath always steps up when she is leading: coach Nitschke

R.V. MOORTHY

Tahlia (McGrath) is a pretty cool customer. She probably hasn't had the output (in this World Cup). She's someone that certainly steps up when she's leading the team. I'm looking forward to seeing her captaining us and I know she'll do a fantastic job — Australia coach Shelley Nitschke about stand-in skipper Tahlia McGrath.

CALLING IT TIME

Parvez Rasool, J&K's first international cricketer, retires

FILE PHOTO: R.V. MOORTHY

Parvez Rasool — the first player from Jammu and Kashmir to represent India in international cricket — announced his retirement from the sport on Monday. Rasool played one ODI against Bangladesh (June 2014) and one T20I against England (January 2017). He has 352 wickets and 5,648 runs in First Class cricket.

HUMDINGER

West Indies pips Bangladesh via Super Over in the second ODI

X@WINDIESCRICKET

West Indies bowled a full 50 overs of spin in its second ODI against Bangladesh in Dhaka on Tuesday, a first in ODI history, as the visitor won at the end of a Super Over. **The scores:** Bangladesh 213/7 in 50 overs (Sarkar 45, Rishad 39 n.o., Motie 3/65) tied with WI 213/9 in 50 overs (Hope 53 n.o., Rishad 3/42); *WI won the Super Over.*

STILL IN THE HUNT

Vishwas on the charge as Warriorz turn the tables on Thalaivas

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Bengal Warriorz kept its playoff hopes alive, overturning an eight-point deficit to win 44-43 against Tamil Thalaivas in a PKL-12 match in New Delhi on Tuesday. For Warriorz, Vishwas starred with 19 points. Arjun Deshwal scored 20 for Thalaivas. **Other results:** U Mumba bt Pink Panthers 37-36; Steelers bt Giants 50-32.

South Africa sends Pakistan packing

Wolvaardt leads from the front; Kapp proves her value yet again; Fatima's side struggles to get going in another rain-hit encounter

ODI WORLD CUP

Kavita Menon
COLOMBO

Elegance personified: Wolvaardt missed out on a hundred. AFP

Rain, a habitual disruptor at the R. Premadasa Stadium, was on Tuesday an unusual spectator, watching Pakistan get overpowered by a dominant South Africa in their Women's ODI World Cup clash.

What began as a daunting 306-run chase in 40 overs was quickly derailed by frequent wickets and stop-start showers. The struggles began early, with Muneeba Ali falling in the second over. From there, South Africa's Marizanne Kapp took charge, denting the line-up with a double-strike in an over that included the key wicket of Sidra Amin.

The impatient rain kept slicing into Pakistan's already dwindling chances. By the final resumption, 234 runs were needed off 20 overs.

Under pressure and unable to build momentum, Fatima Sana's side crumbled, handing the Proteas a massive 150-run win – a result that also ended Pakistan's hopes of reaching the knockouts.

Earlier, South Africa came out with aggressive intent despite an early setback.

Skipper Laura Wolvaardt led the way. The opener began with elegance and timing through the off-side before growing increasingly dominant.

Crucial partnerships with Sune Luus and Kapp played a key role in her growing confidence at the crease. With Luus, she added 118 runs for the second wicket, steadying the innings and dulling Pakistan's early edge.

Luus settled in, picked her gaps, and brought up a well-made 61 before falling to Nashra Sandhu. Wolvaardt then joined Kapp for a 64-run stand, inching towards a deserved century, before falling prey to Sandhu.

The experienced Kapp kept the runs flowing, notching up a composed yet quick half-century.

With the explosive Nadine de Klerk, the two smashed 52 runs off 20 balls to push South Africa comfortably past the 300-run mark, which proved far too much for Pakistan.

The scores: South Africa 312/9 in 40 overs (Laura Wolvaardt 90, Sune Luus 61, Marizanne Kapp 68 n.o., Nadine de Klerk 41, Sadia Iqbal 3/63, Nashra Sandhu 3/45) bt Pakistan 83/7 in 20 overs (Kapp 3/20). **DLS target:** 234 in 20 overs.

Toss: Pakistan.

PoM: Kapp.

Chamari keeps Lanka alive; Bangladesh out

Shayan Acharya
NAVI MUMBAI

It's not for nothing that Chamari Athapaththu is considered one of the finest all-rounders in the world. The Sri Lanka captain defended eight runs in the final over, claimed three wickets and guided her team to a seven-run win in a Women's ODI World Cup fixture against Bangladesh at the D.Y. Patil Stadium on Monday.

Chasing a target of 203, Bangladesh rode on an 82-run stand between Sharmin Akhter (64 n.o.) and captain Nigar Sultana (77) to stay on course.

But Sharmin retiring hurt and Shorna Akter falling to Chamari led to the Bangladesh chase fizzling out. Sugandika Kumari conceded just three runs in the penultimate over. With captain Sultana around, not many imagined that Bangladesh would let it slip, but Chamari (four for 42) gave away just a single in the final over.

The win kept Lanka's slim hopes of a semifinal berth alive while Bangladesh was eliminated.

The scores: Sri Lanka 202 in 48.4 overs (Chamari Athapaththu 46, Hasini Perera 85, Shorna Akter 3/27) bt Bangladesh 195/9 in 50 overs (Nigar Sultana 77, Sharmin Akhter 64 n.o, Chamari 4/42). **Toss:** Sri Lanka. **PoM:** Hasini.

Today's match

Indore, 3 p.m.

H2H in ODIs	
Played: 89	
Australia 61	England 24
Tie 1	NR 3

In World Cups	
Played: 19	
Australia 13	England 4
Tie 1	NR 1

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD) & JIOHOTSTAR

Points table

	M	W	L	NR	PTS	NRR
South Africa (Q)	6	5	1	0	10	0.276
Australia (Q)	5	4	0	1	9	1.818
England (Q)	5	4	0	1	9	1.490
India	5	2	3	0	4	0.526
New Zealand	5	1	2	2	4	-0.245
Sri Lanka	6	1	3	2	4	-1.035
Bangladesh (E)	6	1	5	0	2	-0.578
Pakistan (E)	6	0	4	2	2	-2.651

Q: Qualified | E: Eliminated

Muddled India needs to have a serious introspection

Anirudh Velamuri

In limbo: Harmanpreet & Co. are yet to find a perfect balance between bat and ball. R.V. MOORTHY

While it is never ideal to look at anything in hindsight, Jemimah Rodrigues' thoughts about India after the wins over Sri Lanka and Bangladesh make for interesting reading.

"It's scary for the opponents to know that we have not had our perfect match yet. In such tournaments, because it's so long, it's important to peak at the right time," she stated.

And therein lies the problem.

Rarely in ODI cricket, especially at a World Cup, do teams have perfect matches. Australia, South Africa and England – the three teams to have sealed their semifinal berths – can attest to this.

In finding balance between bat and ball in the line-up, the Women in Blue are stuck between a rock and a hard place, and a big basket of 'what-ifs' to stew over.

What will sting most is the defeat against England in Indore.

India, needing 27 runs off 18 balls, lost the plot when it almost looked difficult to. Having faced issues with just five frontline bowlers, India opted for a sixth, a ploy that didn't yield the desired results.

Loose lines and lengths in key junctures, imperfect fielding efforts and persistent issues with the batting order have all made an appearance here and there, and sometimes together.

Against England, the shocker was the nagging finishing issue that has plagued the side with bat and ball. And no, this isn't recent. Think of the horrors of that 2017 final at Lord's.

In Indore, after a shaky start, seniors Smriti Mandhana and skipper Harmanpreet Kaur – alive to the perils of not having Jemimah, who was dropped to make way for Renuka Singh – laid the foundation for what should have been a simple win.

In retrospect, the veteran pair realised the folly in not putting the game to bed and leaving it to the tail, no matter how prolifically it had wagged all tournament.

India is not an inexperienced side anymore.

Fixtures against high-quality opponents, three high-octane editions of the Women's Premier League and an overall improvement in approach to technique and physical conditioning have all been major positives. If mindset is what is setting this team up for failure, then it's a red flag that needs urgent attention.

A stubbornness to address poor performance might see India, vying for the final semifinal spot, heading into a sword fight with a nail-file.

Australia aims to cope with skipper Healy's absence

Vivek Krishnan
INDORE

Added responsibility: McGrath will lead Australia. R.V. MOORTHY

There is never a good time for a team to lose its captain, opening batter and wicketkeeper to injury. For Australia to miss Alyssa Healy's multifaceted services due to a calf strain for the Women's World Cup clash against old rival England at the Holkar Stadium here on Wednesday – although both teams have already qualified for the semifinals – is a particularly cruel blow.

Besides the fact that Healy, the heartbeat of this Australian outfit, dons various hats, she has been in sensational form with the bat recently. The 35-year-old's last two appearances, against Bangladesh and India in Visakhapatnam, yielded sublime hundreds.

In light of the star player's injury, suffered during a training session on Saturday, the defending champion will have to shuffle its resources against Nat Sciver-Brunt's team. Tahlia McGrath will take the mantle of leadership in Healy's absence. At the top of the order, 22-year-old Georgia Voll is expected to fill in.

"It's unfortunate for Healy with a slight calf strain. Voll has filled that role before. She is the obvious choice, but we've got depth in our batting, so there are some opportunities outside of that as well," Australia coach Shelley Nitschke told reporters on Tuesday.

Despite the setback, the girls in canary yellow and green will start as the favourite. While both sides are identically placed in the points table with four wins in five matches (one no-result each), Australia dominated the 2024-25 Women's Ashes at home with a perfect 7-0 record across the three formats.

England's opening batter and wicketkeeper Amy Jones, however, felt much water has flown under the bridge since that series. "It hasn't been a topic of discussion. It's fairly easy to look past the Ashes because a lot of changes have happened since then. Tournament cricket is a bit different on the whole," Jones said.

Pant. FILE PHOTO

Pant to lead India-A against SA-A

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant was on Tuesday appointed captain of the India-A side for a red-ball series against South Africa-A after fully recovering from a foot fracture sustained during the tour of England. The series will be held in Bengaluru from October 30.

The squad: First match: Rishabh Pant (Capt.), Ayush Mhatre, N. Jagadeesan, Sai Sudharsan (Vice-capt.), Devdutt Padikkal, Rajat Patidar, Harsh Dubey, Tanush Kotian, Manav Suthar, Anshul Kamboj, Yash Thakur, Ayush Badoni, Saransh Jain.

Second game: Pant, Rahul, Jurel, Sai Sudharsan, Padikkal, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Harsh Dubey, Kotian, Suthar, Khaleel Ahmed, Gurnoor Brar, Abhimanyu Easwaran, Prasidh Krishna, Mohammed Siraj, Akash Deep.

Verstappen chasing perfection in pursuit of a fifth World title

FORMULA ONE

Associated Press
AUSTIN (USA)

Dominant run: Verstappen has trimmed his gap with front-runner Piastri from 104 points to 40 in a span of just four races. AP

Max Verstappen is chasing perfection as he pursues a fifth Formula 1 championship. After his dominant weekend at the United States Grand Prix, the Red Bull driver says anything is possible.

"The chance is there. We need to be perfect until the end," Verstappen said after his third win in four races. In a season he once figured was all but lost, Verstappen is now hunting down the McLaren duo of Oscar Piastri and Lando Norris. And when he lifted the victor's trophy on the podium Sunday, it was clear that Verstappen has grabbed this title chase by the horns and may not let go. Verstappen's dominant run of late has trimmed his gap with front-runner Piastri from 104 points to 40 in just four races. He trails Norris by 26.

There are five races and two sprints left in the season, starting this week at the Autodromo Hermanos Rodriguez in Mexico City.

Verstappen would be just the fourth driver to win five titles. And he would join Michael Schumacher as the only drivers to win five in a row.

After the race in Texas, Verstappen said: "We're just going flat out." McLaren doesn't want to show any cracks in confidence that one of its drivers can hold him off. Piastri, despite a miserable weekend in Texas with a crash in the sprint race and a fifth-place finish in the main event, noted he's still leading the championship. "I'd still rather be where I am than the other two," Piastri said.

The results: 1. Verstappen (Red Bull) 1h:34m:00.161s; 2. Norris (McLaren) +7.959s; 3. Leclerc (Ferrari) 15.373; 4. Hamilton (Ferrari) 28.536; 5. Piastri (McLaren) 29.678; 6. Russell (Mercedes) 33.456; 7. Tsunoda (Red Bull) 52.714; 8. Hulkenberg (Sauber) 57.249; 9. Bearman (Haas) 64.722; 10. Alonso (Aston Martin) 70.001; 11. Lawson (Racing Bulls) 73.209; 12. Stroll (Aston Martin) 74.778; 13. Antonelli (Mercedes) 75.746; 14. Albon (Williams) 80.000; 15. Ocon (Haas) 83.043; 16. Hadjar (Racing Bulls) 92.807; +1 lap: 17. Colapinto (Alpine); 18. Borteleto (Sauber); 19. Gasly (Alpine); DNF: Sainz (Williams).

Standings: Drivers: 1. Piastri 346; 2. Norris 332; 3. Verstappen 306; 4. Russell 252; 5. Leclerc 192.

Constructors: 1. McLaren 678 (champion); 2. Mercedes 341; 3. Ferrari 334; 4. Red Bull 331; 5. Williams 111.

Naroditsky... gone too soon. AP

American GM Naroditsky passes away

Associated Press
NEW YORK

American chess Grandmaster (GM) Daniel Naroditsky has died unexpectedly at the age of 29, his family said in a statement released by his club, the Charlotte Chess Center, on Monday.

"It is with great sadness that we share the unexpected passing of Daniel Naroditsky," the family said.

No cause of death was given.

Naroditsky, born in California in 1995, was one of the US' most recognisable chess figures.

A former world youth champion, he became a GM in 2013. In addition to competing, finishing ninth in the blitz World championship last year, he was widely known as a popular commentator, writer and online educator.

INBRIEF

Salt, Brook dazzle in England's big win over New Zealand

Phil Salt hit 85 from 56 balls and Harry Brook 78 from 35 to propel England to a 65-run win over New Zealand in the second T20I at Christchurch on Monday. England leads the three-match series 1-0.

The scores: England 236/4 in 20 overs (Salt 85, Brook 78) bt New Zealand 171 in 18 overs (Seifert 39, Rashid 4/32). **Toss:** New Zealand. **PoM:** Harry Brook.

More loses in quarterfinals of U-23 World wrestling

Vishvajit More came a cropper in the 55kg quarterfinals even as compatriots lost their respective first-round contests in the Greco-Roman competition at the under-23 World wrestling in Novi Sad (Serbia) on Tuesday. Alibek Amirov, sporting the UWW singlet, scored a 10-0 win over More, who began with a 6-2 win over Denis Florin Mihai (Kyrgyzstan) and then beat USA's Kenneth Crosby 9-1 to reach last eight.

Other results (first round): 67kg: Faraim Mustafayev (Aze) bt Nishant 8-3; **72kg:** Gaspar Terteryan (Arm) bt Anil 6-1; **97kg:** Arshak Geghamyan (Arm) bt Naman 9-0; **63kg:** Kuttubek Abdurazakov (Kgz) bt Gaurav 10-2; **87kg:** Payton Jacobson (USA) bt Rohit Bura 8-0; **77kg:** Zalan Pek (Srb) bt Ankit 10-0; **130kg:** Damirkhon Rakhmatov (Uzb) bt Joginder Rathee.

Afghanistan u-19 team to tour India for tri-series

Afghanistan Cricket Board on Monday confirmed that its under-19 national team will tour India for a Youth tri-series featuring India u-19 'A' and India u-19 'B' sides, to be held in Bengaluru from November 17 to 30.

The schedule: Nov. 17: India u-19 'A' vs India u-19 'B'; **Nov. 19:** India u-19 'B' vs Afghanistan u-19; **Nov. 21:** India u-19 'A' vs Afghanistan u-19; **Nov. 23:** India u-19 'A' vs India u-19 'B'; **Nov. 25:** India u-19 'B' vs Afghanistan u-19; **Nov. 27:** India u-19 'A' vs Afghanistan u-19; **Nov. 30:** Final.
All matches at COE (Bengaluru).

Kochi Blue Spikers beats Ahmedabad Defenders

Kochi Blue Spikers ended its campaign in Prime Volleyball League with a 15-13, 14-16, 17-15, 15-9 win over Ahmedabad Defenders in Hyderabad on Tuesday.

Rohan and Ruthvika pair advances; Lakshya exits early

Rohan Kapoor and Ruthvika Gadde got the better of Ukraine's Oleksii Titov and Yevheniia 21-12, 21-19 in the first round of French Open Super 750 badminton tournament even as Lakshya Sen made an early exit, losing to 7-21, 16-21 to Ireland's Nhat Nguyen.

Mbappe strike guides Real Madrid past Getafe

Kylian Mbappe's late strike in the second half helped Real Madrid beat a dogged Getafe by a solitary goal in LaLiga on Sunday night.

The results: Premier League: West Ham 0 lost to Brentford 2 (Thiago 43, Jensen 90+4). **LaLiga:** Alaves 0 drew with Valencia 0; Elche 0 drew with Bilbao 0; Celta Vigo 1 (Duran 20) drew with Real Sociedad 1 (Soler 90); Getafe 0 lost to Real Madrid 1 (Mbappe 80). **Serie A:** Cremonese 1 (Terracciano 4) drew with Udinese 1 (Zaniolo 51); Atalanta 0 drew with Lazio 0; Cagliari 0 lost to Bologna 2 (Holm 31, Orsolini 80); AC Milan 2 (Leao 63, 86-pen) bt Fiorentina 1 (Gosens 55).

Australian pacers will continue to probe Kohli's technique: Short

The veteran batter will be eager to bounce back; both the No. 3 and opener Rohit looked rusty in their comeback game

INDIA IN AUSTRALIA

Press Trust of India
ADELAIDE

Australia batter Matthew Short believes his team's pacers will continue to exploit Virat Kohli's recent weakness outside off stump when India faces Australia in the second ODI here on Thursday.

Kohli, who was dismissed for a duck in the opener in Perth, will be eager to bounce back at the Adelaide Oval, his most successful overseas venue with five international centuries and an average of 65 across formats.

"I'm not in the fast-bowling meetings, but that seems to be the way he has been getting out recently," Short told reporters.

"Some of the guys like 'Hoff' (Josh Hazlewood) and 'Starcy' (Mitchell Starc), they have bowled a lot against him, they know what they're doing.

"In Perth they sort of let the conditions do all the work, a bit of swing and nip on the wicket, so I'm sure they'll do the same again.

"When Rohit (Sharma) got out the other day (in Perth), and then Kohli came on, just the cheer when he was walking on – you'd feel pretty bad as the batter walking off," Short said. Both Rohit and Kohli looked rusty in their comeback game. India must win Thursday's match to stay alive in the series.

Big disappointment: Kohli fell for a duck on his return to the international arena. AP

Holding significance

For players like Short, this white-ball series holds significance ahead of the 2027 World Cup in South Africa.

Having made his debut against India in Mohali, the right-hander has battled injuries and fluctuating roles – from No.8 on debut to No.3 in the current series – and is still searching for form.

"It's been frustrating... I still feel like I'm moving well. I'm feeling good out in the middle," Short said.

The 29-year-old said he's flexible about his batting position.The final ODI will beplayed at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Saturday.

FIDE WORLD CUP
GOA 2025

Chess World Cup logo launched

Sports Bureau

The logo of the Chess World Cup, which gets underway at Arpora (Goa) on November 1, was launched Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, here on Tuesday.

The cup's anthem, sung by Daler Mehndi, was also released at the function.

"This milestone not only reaffirms our State's commitment to becoming a premier destination for international sport but also celebrates India's rising prominence on the world chess stage," the Chief Minister said.

With the top three qualifying for the Candidates tournament , much is at stake in Goa, besides the ₹17.58 crore prize fund.

The top three seeds are D. Gukesh, R. Praggnanandhaa, Arjun Erigaisi.

Redemption calls for self-belief, for both men and women

BETWEEN WICKETS
Suresh Menon

It is unusual for a player to take the blame for a team's defeat, as Smriti Mandhana did after India's loss to England in the Women's World Cup. A defeat by a small margin, four runs in this case, always sets off speculation on where those runs might have come from in the course of an innings. Ignored singles? Missed boundary? Luck?

Mandhana made 88 in 94 balls. When she was fourth out in the 42nd over, India were still sitting pretty. They needed 55 in 53 balls, and with wickets in hand that was a comfortable target.

Then things went haywire. The team's confidence seemed to ooze out or turn into overconfidence. "We could have done with better shot selection," admitted Mandhana, "It started from me, so I will take it on myself..." About being caught at long off, she said, significantly, "The emotions took over for that one..."

That is understandable. Emotions are part of sport. There are two ways to handle these – either by controlling them and making them work for you, or by giving in to them and preparing for the inevitable disappointment.

There is a simple rule in white ball chases, which the great players are conscious of: when you are settled in, bat on till the end. Don't leave it to the next person. The opposition needs only to get a foot in the door before kicking it open. Especially teams like Australia, multi-champions who have been in this situation before and know that one wicket could lead to another and then yet another. For that is the rule for the bowling team: one wicket can make all the difference and alter the flow of the match.

India were so near and yet so far in the ODI World Cup in 2017 and the T20 version in 2020. If they fail here now, it will mean that some of the senior players might not get another chance.

That both the men's and women's teams lost on Sunday, but can redeem themselves on Thursday is one of those quirks of scheduling. But in a larger sense, the Indian men in Australia and the women against New Zealand in their next match can get closer to rendering the defeat purely academic. Early defeats can actually be a spur, as the men showed when they won the 2011 World Cup at home.

The women can make it to the semifinals if they beat New Zealand. If they don't, the ifs and buts must work in their favour. This means select teams must lose their matches. Leaving it to the kindness of rivals is never a safe way in sports, but when teams perform just below the optimum level, that is the only way.

Missing a trick

Did the women miss a trick by benching Jemimah Rodrigues, like the men did by not playing Kuldeep Yadav? There is no guarantee that different selections would have led to different results. In the case of the women, bringing in Renuka Singh to strengthen the bowling made cricketing sense, and acknowledged that although white ball cricket is seen as a batter's game, taking wickets is the best way to check runs.

Kuldeep Yadav, India's highest-ranked ODI bowler remains, in the absence of Jasprit Bumrah, their most likely wicket taker. With two finger spinners and a medium pacer among three all rounders in the Perth ODI, India's balance was slightly askew.

In sport you can make the wrong choices in team selection and still come out on top; the reverse is equally true. But there was – and continues to be – sound cricketing reasons to play Kuldeep in Australia. If your first seven or eight batters don't get the runs it is hardly fair to expect the remaining to do so. Kuldeep is unlikely to score a fifty; he might even be a tad expensive. But he will get wickets, and that's what matters.

Admittedly columnists have the advantage of hindsight – we make our calls after the match while the coach has to do so before the toss. But logic, rather than a defensive mindset should decide the line-up.

Redemption might be round the corner for both India teams, though. In both cases, however, they need greater self-belief.

Hugh Capet obliges in Sandown Park Plate

RACING

HYDERABAD: Trainer G. Sandeep's Hugh Capet, ridden by Akshay Kumar, won the Sandown Park Plate, the main event of Monday's (Oct. 20) races.

The winner is owned by Mr. Subodh Kumar Ananthula.

1. NIJINSKY PLATE (DIV. II) (1,200M): GREIF (P. Sai Kumar) 1, Sharanga (Ashad Asbar) 2, N R I Range (H.M. Akshay) 3 and American Gangster (G. Naresh) 4. Not run: Kitsune. 5-1/2, Head and 1-1/4. 1m, 11.20s. ₹201 (w), 27, 19 and 18 (p). SHP: 22, THP: 54, FP: 1,019, Q: 426, Tanala: 3,454. Favourite: N R I Range.

Owners: Mr. S. Prasad Raju & Mr. Mukund Kakani. Trainer: K.S.V. Prasad Raju.

2. SIRCILLA PLATE (1,400M): ARIZONA SUN (Akshay Kumar) 1, Special Star (P. Sai K) 2, Elegant Lady (Ashad Asbar) 3 and French Lady (Ajay K) 4. 3-1/2, 4 and 4-1/4. 1m, 27.05s. ₹20 (w), 12, 19 and 10 (p). SHP: 43, THP: 50, FP: 105, Q: 70, Tanala: 220. Favourite: Arizona Sun.

Owners: M/s. Ashok Kumar Gupta, Rama Seshu Eyunni & Rafaat Hussain. Trainer: R.H. Sequeira.

3. SANDOWN PARK PLATE (1,400M): HUGH CAPET (Akshay Kumar) 1, Brooklyn Beauty (Gaurav) 2, Reigning Beauty (Afroz K) 3 and Decoy (Mukesh K) 4. 3/4, 1-1/4 and Short Head. 1m, 26.14s. ₹17 (w), 13, 21 and 26 (p). SHP: 163, THP: 76, FP: 307, Q: 291, Tanala: 5, 106. Favourite: Hugh Capet.

Owner: Mr. Subodh Kumar Ananthula. Trainer: G. Sandeep.

4. MIR MUSHTAQ ALI KHAN MEMORIAL CUP (1,200M): EMERALD TOUCH (A. Ashad Asbar) 1, Clara (Akshay K) 2, N R I Highpower (Mukesh K) 2 and Tiger Ruby (Rafique Sk.) 4. 3, Dead Heat and 3-1/4. 1m, 12. 55s. ₹20 (w), 10, 18 and 10 (p). SHP: 15 and 13, THP: Refunded. FP: 25 and 28, Q: 16 and 19, Tanala: 50 and 60. Favourite: Emerald Touch.

Owner: Mr. N. Shyam Sunder. Trainer: N. Rawal.

5. S.S. CARDMASTER MEMORIAL CUP (1,400M): HOPING STAR (P. Sai Kumar) 1, Juramento (Surya Prakash) 2, Alcahol Free (Rafique Sk.) 3 and Classy Dame (Abhay Singh) 4. Not run: Flashing Memories. 1-1/4, 1-1/4 and 4-3/4, 1m, 27.72s. ₹58 (w), 20, 13 and 19 (p). SHP: 47, THP: 52, FP: 175, Q: 70, Tanala: 518. Favourite: Juramento.

Owner: Mr. Gurjinder Singh. Trainer: Jasbir Singh.

6. NIJINSKY PLATE (DIV. I) (1,200M): FOXY GIRL (Sonu Kumar) 1, Equine Power (P. Sai K) 2, Dream To Fly (G. Naresh) 3 and Eminency (Nakhat) 4. 4, 2-1/2 and 1-1/4. 1m, 12.98s. ₹66 (w), 11, 13 and 19 (p). SHP: 34, THP: 42, FP: 125, Q: 50, Tanala: 552. Favourite: Equine Power.

Owners: M/s. Ashok Kumar Gupta, Vishal Gupta & Meka Nitish Reddy. Trainer: M. Srinivas Reddy. Jackpot: 70%: ₹1,648 (306 tkts.) & 30%: 192 (1,124 tkts.).

Mini Jackpot: 688 (116 tkts.).

Treble: (i) 1,469 (19 tkts.), (ii) 304 (128 tkts.).

SNAPSHOTS

Boisson withdraws from Chennai Open; Shrivalli gets wild card entry

CHENNAI: Lois Boisson of France who was given a wild card for the WTA 250 Chennai Open, has withdrawn from the tournament citing knee injury. The fourth wild card has now been allotted to Shrivalli Bhamidipaty, ranked No. 2 in India and No. 377 in the world.

Stubbs leads South Africa's fightback; Maharaj scalps seven

RAWALPINDI: South Africa batsman Tristan Stubbs scored an unbeaten 68 to steer his side to 185 for four at stumps on the second day of the second Test against Pakistan on Tuesday.

Stubbs featured a 113-run partnership with Tony de Zorzi as the visitors looked to haul in Pakistan's first innings score of 333.

Earlier, Pakistan was dismissed shortly before lunch with spinner Keshav Maharaj posting figures of seven for 102 on his return to the side.

The scores: Pakistan 333 in 113.4 overs (Masood 87, Shakeel 66, Shafique 57, Agha 45, Maharaj 7/102) vs. South Africa 185/4 in 65 overs (Stubbs 68 batting, de Zorzi 55).

Parantap replaces Vyshak in Ranji Trophy squad

BENGALURU: Karnataka, on Tuesday, made one change to its Ranji Trophy squad that will take on Goa in the season's second game in Shivamogga from October 25 to 28.

Speedster V. Vyshak, who missed the opener against Saurashtra because of a niggle sustained in the lead-up, has been replaced by 21-year-old all-rounder Yashovardhan Parantap, who made his Karnataka debut last season.

The squad: Mayank Agarwal (Capt.), Karun Nair, R. Smaran, K.L. Shrijith (wk), K.V. Aneesh, Abhinav Manohar, Nikin Jose, Yashovardhan Parantap, Vidwath Kaverappa, Shreyas Gopal, Kruthik Krishna (wk), Shikar Shetty, Mohsin Khan, Abhilash Shetty, M. Venkatesh.

Ananth stars for DYES-A

H.M. Ananth scored a brace as DYES-A thrashed Army Boys Sports Company, MEG 6-1 in the Hockey Karnataka League Championship on Tuesday.

The results: DYES-A 6 (H.M. Ananth 16, 58, Desh Poovaiah 17, C.P. Livin 20, M.T. Aryan Uthappa 54, Akheel Mutagar 57) bt Army Boys Sports Company, MEG 1 (Shivam Patel 12); SAI STC 3 (D.R. Pavan 2, 29, K.D. Hrithik Aiyappa 52) bt Postal 2 (Rajant 34, Rahul 59).

Rakesh performs a hat-trick for Kickstart

Rakesh Singh scored a hat-trick as Kickstart FC beat FC Agniputhra 3-1 in the KSFA Super Division League football on Tuesday.

The results: Parikrma FC 2 (Mangalenthang Singsit 72, Thangjalen Haokip 85) bt FC Real Bengaluru 0.

United Stars FC 4 (R. Vinay 45+2, 85, K. Kaviarasan 73, Murali Srinivas 81) bt Bangalore City FC 2 (Ajay Shanker Kadam 19, P. Mohammed Habeel 79).

Kickstart FC 3 (Rakesh Singh 25, 41, 63) bt FC Agniputhra 1 (Afzar Noorani 59).

Niki still at the helm

Niki Prasad will continue to lead Karnataka in the Super League phase of the senior women's T20 Trophy in Surat from October 25 to 31.

The squad: Niki Prasad (Capt.), Vrinda Dinesh, Mithila Vinod, Shubha Satheesh, Shreyanka Patil, Monica C. Patel, Rajeshwari Gayakwad, Prathyoosha Kumar, B.G. Tejashwini, Sahana S. Pawar, Soumya Verma, M. Pooja Kumari, Shishira A. Gowda, Roshini Kiran & Ananya Hegde.

LIVE TELECAST

Women's ODI World Cup: Star Sports 1 & JioHotstar, 3 p.m.

PVL: Sony Sports Ten 1 (SD & HD) & LIV, 6.30 p.m.

PKL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 7.30 p.m.

Champions League: Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 10.15 p.m.; Sony Sports Ten 1, 2, 5 & LIV, 12.30 a.m. (Thursday)

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